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March 1986

Korea
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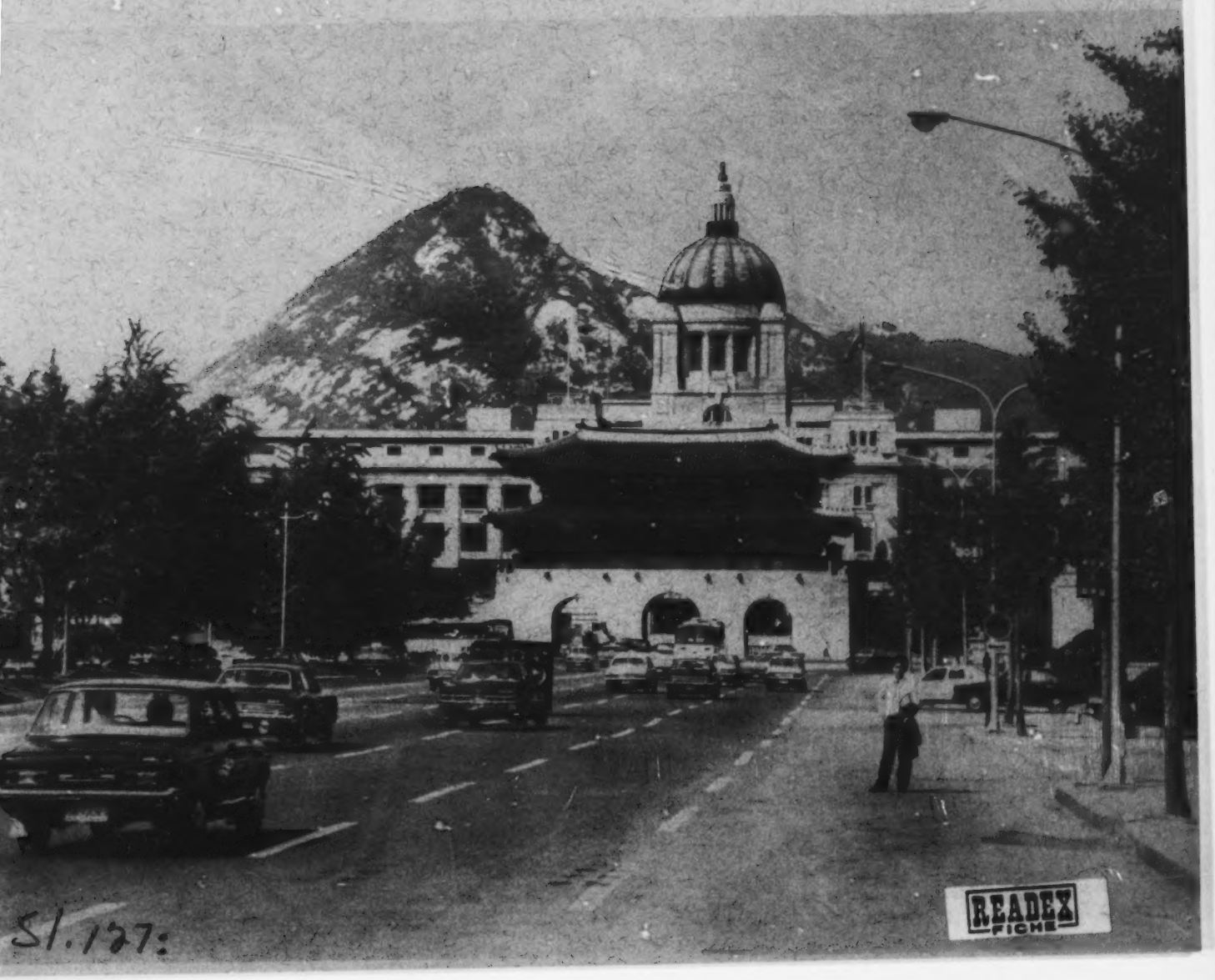

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Preface

The Republic of Korea, whose history spans almost 5,000 years, welcomes visitors with the hospitality of its people, the seasonal beauty of its everchanging climate, and the drive and energy of a country determined to become a major economic power in Asia.

Korea is, however, still a divided country living under an armed truce. The meetings of the Armistice Commission at Panmunjom (which can be visited) provide a vivid reminder of this fact, as do the occasional incidents along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at the 38th parallel.

To newcomers, one of the most pleasant aspects of life in Korea is the friendliness of the people. Recreational facilities and cultural activities are plentiful, and many opportunities exist for leisure-time pursuits. Frustrations and disappointments are, on the whole, relatively few. Most who serve in or visit the Republic of Korea will find the experience rewarding.

Cover: The Capitol, adjacent to Kyungbok Palace and the National Museum.

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This is the official post report prepared by the post. The information contained herein is directed to official U.S. Government employees and their families. Any other information concerning the facts as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial information.

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The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

The name "Korea" dates from the Koryo Dynasty (A.D. 936–1392). Korea is often called "land of the morning calm," an English translation of "chosun," the name of the last dynasty to rule Korea.

The Korean Peninsula juts southward from Manchuria and Siberia. With a total area of 85,000 square miles, it compares in size to Great Britain. It is 525 miles long, from 125 to 200 miles wide, and has thousands of islands dotting its 5,400-mile coastline.

Korea's Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), bisected by the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), divides North and South Korea. The DMZ is 4,347 yards wide and extends 151 miles across the peninsula. The Republic of Korea (ROK) comprises the southern half of the peninsula and encompasses 34,247 square miles, an area about the size of Indiana. Seas form three of its boundaries: to the east, the Sea of Japan, or Eastern Sea; to the south, the narrow Korean Straits; and to the west, the Yellow Sea.

Korea is a mountainous and ruggedly beautiful land of diverse geographical features. The most scenic area is the east coast, where the Taebaek Mountains slope down to the sea. Here fine, sandy beaches with clear water are found, but few natural harbors exist and the tide is low (2–3 feet). The rocky south coast has numerous small fishing ports. Mt. Halla (an extinct volcano), the largest mountain in the south, is on Cheju Island off the south coast.

Most of the country's islands lie off the south and west coasts, where the Continental Shelf is quite wide. Cold and warm currents wash the peninsula. Korea's coastal waters teem with marine life, and most islanders are engaged in coastal fishing. The west coast has numerous shoals and islands, and its usefulness for shipping is hampered by mudbanks and the high ebb and flow of the tides (up to 30 feet at Inchon).

Pusan, about 300 miles southeast of Seoul, is Korea's main seaport; Inchon, about 10 miles west of Seoul, is the second port. The ports of Ulsan and Pohang are being expanded to serve new industrial centers. The port of Chinhae near Pusan is the headquarters of the Republic of Korea Navy.

Korea's principal rivers are the Han, which flows through Seoul, and the Naktong, which rises in the northeast and then flows southward to enter the Korean Straits west of Pusan. The Han enters the Yellow Sea north of Inchon; its estuary is divided down the middle by the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), which splits the 4-kilometer-wide DMZ.

Some 3,400 plant species and varieties are found on the Korean Peninsula, including 880 general vascular plants. A vigorous reforestation program, which has been in effect for over 15 years, has worked miracles in restoring tree cover to the rugged mountain sites which were denuded during the Japanese occupation, the Korean War and its aftermath. Now, even remote uplands are covered with larch, fir, spruce, pine, and birch. Tropical vegetation is found on Cheju Island. The northern area is noted for its hillsides of rhododendron; the center for its acre-upon-acre of magnolias, peonies, and lilies; and the southern area for its camellias.

Korea's climate is comparable to the northeastern United States with four clearly defined seasons. Spring is somewhat unpredictable and wet. Monsoon rains, beginning in early to mid-July and extending into August, combine with 90°F–100°F temperatures to make for an oppressively humid summer. In late summer the side effects of typhoons are sometimes felt along the south and southwest coasts. Autumn is noted for its succession of warm, sunny days and cool, refreshing nights. December through February bring dry, below freezing weather with bitter winds sweeping in from Siberia and Manchuria for a few days. A few milder days follow and then bitter cold returns. Snow falls from about mid-December through February, but only remains on the ground for a few days, except at higher elevations.

Seoul, Korea's capital, is faced with a serious air pollution problem due to numerous factories, buses, and cars. These factors, combined with dust and other irritants in the air, may aggravate sinus, migraine, hay fever, and respiratory ailments.

Population

Korea is one of the world's most densely populated countries. The latest ROK Government figures estimate the population of South Korea as 41.2 million and the population of Seoul as 10 million as of mid-1985. Only 22% of the land is flat enough to be arable; land that can grow crops is farmed intensively. In recent years, a dramatic shift in population from the country to the city has occurred and nearly two-thirds of the people now live in urban areas. As incomes have increased, birth rates have declined, and the average age of the population has increased slightly. The fact that most Koreans now have no firsthand memory of either the Japanese occupation or the Korean War is politically significant.

History. Recorded Korean history began during the Three Kingdoms period (57 B.C. to A.D. 668). The Silla Dynasty ruled the entire peninsula from 668–918; the tem-

Seoul market scene—woman peeling garlic.

ples and art of the period are viewed with admiration to this day. During the Koryo Dynasty (918–1392) bronze coinage was first introduced, world reknown celadon pottery was manufactured, and printing was developed. The Yi Dynasty (1392–1910) is noted for its Golden Age—the reign of King Sejong, 1419–50, which saw the formulation of the 24-letter Korean alphabet (Hangul), and the development of movable type printing. During this time Confucianism spread throughout the country.

In the last years of the 16th century the Japanese almost conquered the peninsula, but were driven out with help from China. Strict isolation was then enforced and Korea became known as the Hermit Kingdom. This period ended in 1876. In 1882 Korea signed a treaty with the U.S. establishing diplomatic and commercial relations—the country's first trade treaty and the first recognition of Korean independence by a Western power.

In 1910 Korea was annexed and occupied by Japan. The Japanese forbade the use of Korean language and forced the adoption of Japanese names, culture, and language. In 1919 a Declaration of Independence was signed by 33 Korean patriots, leading to a nonviolent uprising against Japanese rule and the establishment of a provisional government of Korea in exile. The end of World War II in 1945 saw the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule.

Before Korea was opened to foreign influence in 1876, Korean society had a great deal of uniformity and stability. Since 1945, wide contact has occurred with people from many nations, and a corresponding acceleration in change in the pattern of living. Progress made by the nation has changed the thinking and desires of the people. Societal change, which has been breathtaking, continues. Old patterns of thought and behavior persist, but are subject to the relentless pressure of rapid modernization.

Culture. The Westernization of Korea has made drastic changes in living patterns for many Koreans, especially in urban areas. Streets are filled with Koreans dressed in Western-style clothing; movies, restaurants, and discos are active and popular. Seoul especially reflects the changes. Korea is in the midst of a large construction boom in private, industrial, and public service facilities. Many major construction projects will be completed by mid-1986, in time for the Asian and Olympic Games in Seoul in 1986 and 1988, respectively. Changes are also visible in other major cities.

Korea's tourist industry has waged a vigorous campaign to attract increasing numbers of visitors. Japanese still make up the largest group of tourists who come to Korea. Large numbers of Taiwanese and Americans also visit the country.

The four major religions in Korea are Buddhism, Shamanism, Confucianism, and Christianity. Buddhism, brought to Korea from China in the 4th century A.D., was the dominant religion throughout much of Korean history. It gave Korea a strong cultural heritage. Buddhist temples, sculptures, paintings, writing, and other priceless works constitute most of the country's national treasures. Today, about 8 million Buddhist adherents and 2,500 temples exist throughout the country.

Shamanism is the oldest religion and was probably brought to Korea by the early immigrants from north-central Asia. It is primarily observed among rural people, particularly in times of sickness, but the number of practitioners and believers has declined.

Confucianism, more an ethical code than a religious doctrine, came to Korea from China as early as the 2d century A.D. It emphasizes ancestor worship, respect for elders and authority, and the importance of education.

Christianity was introduced in Korea in the 16th century. The government made several attempts to stamp out the religion, one as recently as 1866, and discouragement and persecution continued under the Japanese occupation. Today, Christianity flourishes. Religious structures and forms of worship follow occidental patterns, and most ministers are Korean. Christians total over 8 million, of whom about two-thirds are Protestant.

The Korean language is distinct from Japanese and Chinese, although its grammar and word form resemble Japanese, and its vocabulary is filled with words borrowed from Chinese. It is very difficult for English speakers to learn. During the occupation of Korea (1910–45) the Japanese made a concerted effort to teach and encourage the use of their language. As a result, an estimated 10%–20% of the population, mostly people 50 years of age and over, can still speak Japanese. The use of Chinese characters is gradually giving way to Hangul, a phonetic alphabet consisting of 24 letters—14 consonants and 10 vowels. The Korean Government has encouraged the use of the Korean language in all official documents and publications since 1969. Although the Korean language is generally the same throughout the peninsula, seven mutually intelligible dialects have been identified.

The average traditional Korean home is built partially of brick or stone around a courtyard and has three to four bedrooms, one wood-floor living room, and a kitchen. Bedrooms have charcoal-heated floors called "ondol." Windows are glassed but sliding doors between rooms in many homes are latticed frames covered with paper.

Millions of Koreans now live in high-rise apartments. Most city houses have tile roofs and are often surrounded by a cement block wall. Cities are architecturally a mixture of Korean, Japanese, and Western styles. Despite modernization, Seoul still retains the exotic flavor of the Orient. Shoes are never worn in Korean homes or in traditional Korean restaurants. They are removed at the entrance and slippers are usually provided.

In Korea, the first name is the family name, usually followed by a two-syllable given name. Sometimes Koreans will give their name in the Western order when they meet foreigners. Remembering a full name is difficult. In Korea you should call a person Mr., Mrs., or Miss. Except among persons who are closely related or very old friends, Koreans always address one another in this formal manner. Married women use their maiden names with the prefix "Mrs.".

Married names may be used in a business situation or when associating with foreigners.

Today, Western dress prevails among women and men, both in urban and rural areas, because it is more practical. When Western clothing was introduced to Korea early in the 1900s, young men and the educated wore it as a symbol of their advanced way of life. Many Korean women and some elderly men still proudly wear traditional dress, especially on festive occasions.

Western, Chinese, and Japanese restaurants are found in all Korean cities. Traditional food consists mainly of rice, vegetables, poultry, grilled meat and fish. Boiled rice, the staple food here as among other East Asian countries, is sometimes extended with barley, beans, or other cereals. The most important and popular side dish is "kimchi," a mixture of pickled vegetables such as cabbage and turnips which, in its favorite form, is full of red peppers, onions, garlic, and salt. "Bulgogi" and "kalbi" are the most popular beef dishes.

Rice is also the favored grain for liquor production. Korean traditional drinks include: takju, a very light rice wine slightly stronger than beer; yakju, a potent variety of takju; and soju, a strong spirit distilled from rice. They are less expensive than whisky or beer.

Public Institutions

As a small country surrounded by major powers—China, Japan, and Russia—Korea has for centuries felt pressure from its larger neighbors. Historically, Korea responded to this pressure by adopting a posture of isolationism which earned it the nickname of The Hermit Kingdom. However, in 1882, Korea signed a treaty with the U.S. which established official contact with the West for the first time. In spite of Korea's efforts in subsequent years to widen its foreign contacts and retain its independence, Japan assumed an increasingly important role in Korea. In 1910, Japan annexed Korea outright. This period of Japanese colonialism continued until the end of World War II.

In what was intended by the U.S. as a temporary arrangement for administrative convenience at the end of World War II, American troops were to accept the Japanese surrender south of the 38th parallel while Soviet troops accepted it north of the parallel. However, this division was made permanent by the USSR, which refused to allow a U.N. Commission to enter the territory north of the 38th parallel to supervise free elections. The USSR set up a separate government, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK); in North Korea, and installed a Soviet Red Army Major, Kim Il Sung, as leader of the DPRK.

In June 1950, the DPRK launched a massive invasion of the South, which was halted at the Naktong River near Pusan, and then reversed by a U.S. Marine landing in September at Inchon. Three years of bloody fighting saw the massive intervention of Chinese Communist troops to aid the North and assistance for the South from 16 members of the United Nations. A truce was signed on July 27, 1953, and a demilitarized zone established which roughly follows the 38th parallel. A peace treaty has never been concluded, and U.S. military forces remain in the Republic to assist in enforcing the Armistice and in deterring aggression, pursuant to the Mutual Security Treaty concluded between the U.S. and the ROK in 1954. While an uneasy peace has been maintained on the peninsula since the treaty, numerous incidents have occurred, and large armed forces confront each other across the DMZ.

The Republic of Korea has had a stormy postwar political history. Its first President, Syngman Rhee, ruled from 1948 until his overthrow in 1960. The civilian government which followed Rhee was in turn overthrown in 1961 by a military coup led by General Park Chung Hee. President Park ruled, first as a general and then as a civilian, until his assassination in October 1979.

After a brief interim during which President Park's last Prime Minister served as president, General Chun Doo Hwan took power in mid-1980. A new constitution establishing Korea's Fifth Republic was then adopted by referendum in October 1980, and in February 1981, President Chun was elected by an electoral college for a single 7-year term. The rigorous restrictions on political activity imposed early in the Republic have been gradually relaxed and, in February 1985, a new National Assembly was elected. It was described as the most vigorously contested election in many years.

The constitution of the Fifth Republic, like its predecessor, provides for a division of the government into three branches: strong executive, legislative, and judicial. The President administers the country through a Prime Minister and a Cabinet, appointed by the President. Provincial governors are appointed and work under the direct administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, 3 appellate courts, 10 district courts, and 1 family court. In addition, the military services have special courts.

Under a unicameral parliamentary system, two legislators are elected from each of the 92 districts, with 92 proportional representatives making up the rest of the 276 Assembly members. The National Assembly has a speaker and two vice-speakers; the latter are selected by the two major political parties. A majority of seats in the Assembly are held by the government's Democratic Justice Party (DJP). However, the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), a new opposition party that includes many once-banned politicians, won a significant number of seats in the February 1985 Assembly elections, leading to the effective return of a two-party system after several years of multi-party politics. The next presidential election is scheduled for March 1988.

Korea pursues a vigorous foreign policy, designed to strengthen the country's security, promote international trade and development, seek the broadest possible participation in the international community, and to pursue step-by-step peaceful reunification of the peninsula through increased contacts with North Korea. In pursuit of this policy, President Chun has

invited North Korean Leader Kim Il Sung to visit the South, and expressed his own willingness to visit the North. This proposal was turned down by the North. However, South and North Korea did hold talks dealing with economic, humanitarian and sports issues in 1984–85, and direct contacts between the parliaments of both states have also been agreed upon. The ROK is pursuing South-North dialog vigorously as the key to reduction of tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Arts, Science, and Education

Korea's rich cultural heritage is evidenced in hundreds of specified national treasures such as buildings, books, documents, fine arts, sculptures, and handicrafts.

From ancient times, Korean literature consisted of poetry set to music for singing and dancing. The introduction of Western culture saw the emergence of a new school of writers who adopted Western forms and styles.

The art works of the Koguryo Kingdom, still found on the walls of ancient tombs, reflect Chinese influence. Buddhist, Shilla and Koryo left numerous stone Buddha images and other religious art objects. The Confucian Yi Dynasty saw the flowering of Korean painting and calligraphy as elegant as any found in China. Korean calligraphy is still held in high esteem. The National Museum houses numerous ancient masterpieces, some dating back to the Silla Dynasty and beyond to the neolithic era.

Western art has spread rapidly in the atmosphere of modern education and from the training of artists abroad. Many young architects also study abroad, and their contemporary designs, modified by purely Korean influences, are steadily gaining international respect and admiration.

In Korea, music originally was part of religious rituals, along with prayer and dance. Gradually it evolved into refined and well-balanced music. To this day it is cherished by young and old. Traditional music declined with the introduction of Western music, but it is being revived through the activities of the National Classical Music Institute and by private institutions. Western music was introduced into Korea toward the end of the last century and rapidly became popular. Koreans are musically oriented; recitals, concerts, and operas usually have large audiences. Seoul has three symphony orchestras.

Traditional dance and modern ballet are popular in Korea. Classes in traditional and modern dance are available to all school children and advanced courses are offered by many colleges.

Like most drama traditions, Korean drama had its origins in ancient religious rites. The early form of theatrical art is the mask play of the Silla era. Other forms are puppet shows staged with wooden dolls manipulated to the accompaniment of music, and the Pansori, which is the dramatization of well-known tales and narratives to the accompaniment of traditional drums. Modern drama was introduced into Korea early in this century, and a Drama Center has been established to encourage the increasing interest in this art form. Korean dramatists are not only adapting foreign works for local audiences, but are also producing original plays.

Films have contributed much to the modernization of Korean life and have introduced foreign cultures to the Korean people. Korea's first movie was produced in 1921, and now moviemaking is an important industry in this country. Korean productions are entered in various international film festivals. About 24 foreign films are imported each year.

Korean research and development activities are centered in scores of research institutes located mostly in Seoul. These include the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), the Korea Institute of Industrial Economics and Technology (KIET), the Agency for Defense Development (ADD), and the Korea Educational Development Institute (KEDI). High technology research and development institutes are rapidly being relocated to the new science city of Daeduk, about 60 miles south of Seoul.

Education has expanded rapidly at all levels since 1945, and today Korea's students constitute more than one-quarter (27%) of the total population. Both public and private schools are subject to the supervision of the Ministry of Education.

The law stipulates that every person is entitled to at least 6 years of elementary education. As a result, literacy is well over 95%, and all children ages 6–11 now attend school. Secondary education covers 6 years beyond elementary school and consists of two stages: 3 years of middle school (junior high school) and 3 years of high school. All elementary school graduates are entitled to admission to middle school, provided they can afford the school fees. Graduates of middle school must pass a qualifying examination for admission to high school and must be able to pay school fees. As might be expected in a country whose primary economic resource is its people, investment in education is heavy, particularly in technical and vocational education and at the college level, both of which have expanded tenfold in the last two decades.

Numerous institutions of higher education have been established through missionary assistance, including Ewha Womans University (Methodist), Yonsei University (Interdenominational), Soongjun University (Presbyterian), and Sogang University (Jesuit). Western culture has been introduced to Korea through the universities, and many national leaders have received their education from them. Of the "big 5" major universities in Seoul (Yonsei, Sogang, Ewha, Korea, and Seoul National), the most prestigious is Seoul National University (SNU).

Commerce and Industry

Korea used U.S. and other economic aid very well after the war, changing its position from one of the world's poorest ex-colonies to one of

Left: The National Theater, Seoul offers traditional Korean, classical European, and modern performers. Below: Typical Seoul traffic.

the world's most dynamic growth economies. After a decade of work on education and other necessary infrastructure, Korea turned to exports as an "engine of economic growth." In the 20 years that followed, it averaged about 9% real growth per year, with per capita output (GNP) rising from around $100 to about $2,000. The economy's only recession since the beginning of the "economic miracle" occurred in 1980 when real GNP decreased by 6% and fell to $1,503. In 1981, however, the economy recovered the ground lost the previous year. After reaching 9.5% real GNP growth in 1983, the Korean economy settled back to the more sustainable 7.5% range projected in the revised Economic and Social Development Plan for 1984–1986.

Korea is rapidly industrializing, with the manufacturing sector increasing its share of GNP to 29% in 1985. From 1962 to 1985, the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors decreased in share from 37% to 14%, while the wholesale and retail trade sector continued to increase its share to 17% of the GNP in 1985.

Korea's major industrial products include textiles, electronic products, footwear, food products, chemicals, cement, petrochemicals, beverages, plywood, automobiles, machinery, and ships. Korea's main crop is rice, followed by barley. Vegetables and some fruits—especially apples, tangerines and strawberries—are also grown.

Korea's economic development has been led by rapid expansion of foreign trade. Exports, which totaled only $55 million in 1962, have grown at an average annual rate of 35% totaling $30 billion in 1985. The leading export has traditionally been textiles, but they are losing ground to electronics, steel and ships. Commodity imports have also increased dramatically from $422 million in 1962 to $30.6 billion in 1985. Korea must import most of its energy: oil imports accounted for about 19% of total Korean imports by value in 1985. Korea also has a vigorous nuclear power program, with four plants in operation, five under construction, and more planned.

Korea's major export market is the United States, which took 36% of its exports in 1984. Japan is second with a 16% export market share the same year. In terms of imports for 1984, the situation is reversed, with Japan supplying 25% of Korea's total imports and the United States second with 22%. Major imports are crude oil, electrical products, machinery, nonelectrical machinery, transportation equipment (unfinished ships), chemicals, iron and steel products and grain.

The Fifth Five-Year Economic and Social Plan (1982–86) has adopted a strategy which continues to emphasize high growth, but with major attention towards controlling inflation and providing a stable base for further development. During this period Korea will press for further development of heavy industries, with careful attention to upgrading skills and improving income distribution, as well as an emphasis on social development.

Transportation

Automobiles

Embassy employees (State, USIS, Defense Attaches, and JUSMAG) with diplomatic or consular officer status can import a personal car duty free at any time during their tour. Nondiplomatic personnel of the State Department, USIS, and Military Assistance Advisory Group on a 12-month tour (or longer), and other Embassy personnel without diplomatic status can import a car duty free within 6 months of their date of arrival in Korea.

Advance authorization to import a privately owned car must be obtained from the Counselor for Administrative Affairs. This authorization will not be granted until full information is received indicating compliance with the post's policy in reference to cost. A ceiling of U.S. $13,500 is the maximum, original, "base" cost of a car that can be imported duty free. This amount represents the manufacturer's basic retail price at point of origin, excluding accessories, extra equipment, taxes, transportation, and related costs. Avoid importing cars that would attract undue attention.

Department of State, USIS, and JUSMAG personnel may ship a car without obtaining prior authorization provided certification is sent to the Counselor for Administrative Affairs stating that the vehicle complies with the post's regulations regarding the cost ceiling.

Vehicles shipped to Korea should not be crated, but should be covered by all-risk maritime insurance. The Embassy arranges for the pickup of privately owned vehicles at the port of entry and for delivery to the General Services Compound pending registration and licensing. It is mandatory that you carry stipulated minimum amounts of third-party, property damage, and liability insurance. This insurance can be purchased locally and must be in effect before you can drive your car.

To obtain a local drivers license, an application, three stamp-sized pictures, and a valid drivers license (U.S. or foreign) are required. Without a valid permit, you must take the local drivers test which is considered difficult. A Korean license is valid for 3 years and is renewable. Fee for initial issuance is 2,200 won, and renewal is 3,300 won.

Local

Official Transportation. Transportation will be provided if it is directly related to the transaction of official business. This includes transportation to and from government functions.

Because public transportation is inadequate, the Embassy provides bus service, at a nominal cost, to transport employees to and from work. Morning departures are regularly scheduled; evening schedules are staggered for the convenience of those working beyond the normal closing time. During office hours, a shuttle bus runs between the Chancery and the General Services Compound in the Yongsan area via USIS. A shuttle bus also operates from the residential areas in South Post to various places on the military reservation, the Embassy, and Compounds I and II.

To get established, new arrivals can request official transportation for the first 5 days of their initial

tour. When personnel leave post, they can request official transportation during the last 3 days. This authorization to use official vehicles is based on single trips, not a daily assigned vehicle, and is subject to normal motor pool needs.

Official transportation is authorized to take employees and dependents to and from medical facilities, and to and from the airport when they leave for R&R.

Unofficial Transportation. After close of business on workdays, and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, Embassy employees may be authorized unofficial transportation to and from recreational facilities or shopping areas both in Seoul and outside of the city. This includes an official vehicle and driver. If this transportation is used, the employee must pay the driver at stipulated rates for a minimum of 2 hours and for each hour thereafter; plus a 20.5 charge per mile. You pay the driver at the current authorized per diem rate for each overnight period.

Intercity Bus Service. Bus service is available throughout Korea. Comfortable, modern, air-conditioned coaches provide safe, pleasant and inexpensive transportation on the newer highways between major cities. However, buses that travel the narrow and bumpy lateral routes are less comfortable and are accident prone.

Seoul has local public bus transportation (no streetcars) which is inexpensive and fairly fast but, especially at rush hour, very crowded. While buses are numbered, maps in each bus are in Hangul (Korean) and very few drivers speak English. This makes travel by city bus difficult.

Local Subways. Seoul has several subway lines in operation, and further construction is underway in many areas. The subway system is safe, fast, inexpensive, has signs in English, and is often used by foreigners.

Taxi Service. Local taxis can be used for intracity travel; however, they are not allowed on the military bases. In the center of town (where taxi stops are marked in English) and elsewhere, taxis can be hailed from the sidewalk. Tipping is not customary.

The PX has a taxi fleet of sedans that are dispatched on call. You may have to wait 1 hour for a PX taxi. Fares are determined by meters (payment is in U.S. dollars) and tipping (local currency) is optional.

A car rental service in Korea will lease cars for about $70 a day. A car with a chauffeur can be hired for about $90 a day.

Regional

Korea's railroad system is well developed, and a special express train runs from Seoul to Pusan in less than 5 hours. The government owns and operates the entire railroad system and is making further efforts to modernize and expand railroad facilities. Fares are reasonable, and rail transportation is often used by Westerners. Train service is available to all major cities. Night express trains have Pullman-type sleepers, and long-distance trains usually have dining cars. Licensed vendors come aboard trains at most stops to sell soft drinks and other refreshments.

Sea transport is essential to Korea because of its peninsular location. Shipping services are well developed, and almost all major foreign shipping lines regularly call at ports here. Usually these are cargo or cargo/passenger ships. The principal ports are Pusan, to the south of Seoul on the tip of the peninsula, and Inchon, about 10 miles northwest of Seoul on the Yellow Sea. An overnight car ferry service operates between Pusan and Shimonoseki, in Japan.

Many world airlines fly to Korea, including two American carriers—Northwest Airlines and Pan American Airlines. Other airlines are Air France, Thai International, Cathay Pacific, China Airways, Japan Airlines, Kuwait Airways, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Lufthansa Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, and Korean Air (KAL). Only KAL has air routes between the major cities in Korea. Flights are frequent and inexpensive.

One of the most conspicuous changes in Korea in recent years has been in highway construction. Highways from the airport to the city and from Seoul to Inchon, Pusan, Kwangju and the east coast have been completed and other highways are under construction. These highways have well engineered exits and entries, but are often heavily congested. Seoul's road system is inadequate and traffic congestion is a major problem. Travel on major and secondary roads may often be slow and difficult. Pedestrians in large numbers cause additional risk to drivers. You must constantly be alert for unmarked crossings in unlikely locations.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

International telephone and telegraph service is available 24 hours to all free-world countries. A 3-minute, person-to-person call to the U.S. costs about $10.70 plus $2.38 for each additional minute. A 3-minute station-to-station call costs about $7.25 plus $2.38 for each additional minute. Circuits are open 24 hours daily. Calls can be booked through the Embassy operator, who in turn places the call with the Korean International Telephone and Telegraph (KITT). Service is fairly good and calls can be completed within 1–3 hours.

Telegram service is also available at post. Rates vary according to destination and to the number of words.

International telegrams should be addressed to the employee, American Embassy, Seoul. Personal telegrams received during office hours are delivered to the mailroom, and the employee is then informed. After duty hours, personal telegrams are delivered to the Marine Guard on duty, who will contact the employee by telephone.

Mail and Pouch

The Department of State pouch is used for receiving prescription medicines and for sending and receiving from the Department items such as prescription eyeglasses and orthopedic supplies.

American Embassy personnel of all agencies are authorized use of APO facilities. The mail address is:

(Name)
American Embassy
APO San Francisco 96301

First-class letter mail to and from the U.S. moves on a daily basis at U.S. domestic postal rates. It usually takes 7–8 days each way.

Packages marked Space Available Mail (SAM) and bearing regular parcel post rate postage will be given airlift service to and from the overseas address and Seattle or San Francisco, on a space available basis. PRIORITY mail is given first priority, PAL is second and SAM is last. Packages of not more than 70 pounds in weight and 100 inches in length and girth combined can be sent and received by SAM. The sender should request SAM service. It normally takes 4–6 weeks.

Parcel Airlift (PAL) provides commercial airlift for parcels between the APO and the post office in the continental U.S. Domestic parcel post rate applies plus a fee from $1.20–$6.00, depending on weight, for all service between the U.S. city address and the overseas base. Parcel Airlift packages must weigh no more than 30 pounds, and measure no more than 60 inches in length and girth combined. PAL takes about 2 weeks.

Packages can also be sent PRIORITY mail. Airmail postage rates apply and the packages go by commercial air all the way to their destination. PRIORITY parcels must weigh no more than 70 pounds, and measure no more than 108 inches in length and girth combined. PRIORITY mail takes 5–7 days.

Personnel should be aware that regulations regarding Space Available Mail (SAM), PRIORITY Mail, and Parcel Airlift (PAL) are subject to change at any time; questions should be addressed to local U.S. postal authorities.

Stamp sales, mail registry, money orders, and other regular postal services are available at the APO.

Items received via APO for your personal use are not subject to duty charges. APO regulations prohibit importing gifts for donation to persons or organizations not authorized the use of APO facilities. Those with APO privileges cannot import merchandise to carry on business ventures with authorized or non-authorized users of APO facilities. APO facilities can be used to obtain items for gifts to others with APO privileges.

International mail can be used by all employees to correspond with persons in other countries, particularly other Far East countries. International postage rates apply. The address is:

(Name)
American Embassy
82 Sejong-ro, Chongro-Ku
Seoul, Korea. 110

Radio and TV

The Armed Forces Korea Network (AFKN) broadcasts news, music, sports, and some U.S. feature radio programs 24 hours daily on both AM and FM stations. Voice of America programs are also received in Korea. Several Korean radio stations offer good musical programs on both AM and FM.

AFKN–TV transmits selected U.S. television programs and live newscasts (via satellite) in color about 18 hours daily. Three Korean networks also telecast (in Korean) throughout Korea several hours daily in color.

The National Television System Committee (NTSC) system is used, so color TV's bought in the U.S. can receive local broadcasts.

Home video machines are common in the Embassy community. They can also be purchased and serviced inexpensively in the local PX. Several video-tape centers rent tapes at reasonable prices. VHS and BETA tapes are available, however, the largest selection of tapes is VHS.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

Two English-language newspapers, the *Korea Times* and the *Korea Herald*, are published in Seoul. Both concentrate on Korean news. The U.S. military newspaper, the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, published daily in Japan and flown to Seoul, is available by subscription for daily home delivery, as are the Far East editions of *Time* and *Newsweek*. *The International Herald Tribune* (Asia edition), and *Asian Wall Street Journal* arrive 1 day late, from Hong Kong. Most popular American magazines are available at the post exchange, with about 1 month delay from publication.

The main post library in Seoul has excellent, newly remodeled facilities. Army Special Services libraries have reading rooms with magazines and newspapers. These libraries carry a comprehensive assortment of current technical journals and have microfilms on numerous subjects. The libraries will make every effort to secure materials not immediately available.

USIS libraries are in Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, and Kwangju.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

The Health Unit in the Chancery, staffed by a State Department Foreign Service nurse practitioner and a Korean registered nurse, is available to all Mission employees and their dependents. Medical services provided by the Health Unit include first aid treatment and treatment of minor illnesses, immunizations, assistance with health problems and referral for further medical attention to a hospital or dentist.

The U.S. Army 121st Medical Evacuation Hospital is an adequately equipped, 207-bed military hospital and out-patient clinic on South Post. Embassy employees and their dependents are authorized to use these facilities. The hospital is staffed by U.S. Army Medical Corps personnel. Although the scope of treatment is limited, obstetrical cases, routine surgery, and most illnesses can be treated here. Patients requiring extensive, prolonged, or unusual treatment or procedures not available in Korea are evacuated to the U.S.

Seoul Military Hospital does refractions, but at times appointments are difficult to obtain. Optometrists and facilities for grinding lenses are available locally, though some people prefer to send their prescriptions to the U.S. Frames can be repaired and replaced locally or at the PX. Soft, extended wear and hard contact lenses can be purchased locally.

Have a thorough dental examination and necessary treatment completed before coming to post. Adequate, U.S.-educated, Korean dentists and orthodontists practice in Seoul, and their services are regularly used by Embassy personnel. In addition, the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital Dental Clinic is well equipped and staffed by American dentists.

Employees and their dependents outside the Seoul area can use any U.S. military dispensary located near them. In emergencies patients are usually evacuated by air to the Seoul Military Hospital. Seoul Military Hospital and clinics provide services to contract personnel and their dependents, but on a charge basis. Contract employees should be acquainted with the provisions of their contracts and health insurance coverage before coming to post.

In addition to the U.S. Army Hospital, several adequate local hospitals are available. These facilities are staffed with Korean physicians, many of whom have had graduate training in the U.S. However, the language barrier often hampers communication with hospital staff and physicians.

Community Health

The general level of community sanitation is not high, although annual nationwide government immunization programs are in effect to control smallpox, typhoid, diptheria, typhus, and cholera. Voluntary health agencies assist in the effort to control tuberculosis, intestinal parasites, and leprosy.

Sewage and garbage disposal and treatment facilities are limited to urban areas only, with only modest scale operations. Insect and fly control for prevention of encephalitis and other communicable diseases is active and reasonably successful

Water purification facilities are available in urban areas; however, Westerners should not drink the water; beer or hot tea are preferable.

Food sanitation service has been started, but it may be some time before acceptable standards are reached.

Preventive Measures

Although intestinal parastites, liver and lung fluke, tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, and encephalitis exist, none of these diseases presents major hazards to Westerners if reasonable precautions are taken. Hepatitis is a threat, and shellfish in particular should be approached with caution. The most frequent ailments among Americans are the same as those encountered at home. Diarrhea is most often caused by contaminated food and water. Those traveling outside Seoul should contact the Health Unit nurse.

The danger period for mosquito-borne encephalitis extends from June through October. Regular spraying is done by the Army and the Embassy on South Post and on the compounds during this time, so the danger is minimal.

Mosquitoes, flies, spiders, cockroaches, and other insects are controlled in the housing areas by spraying programs. Korea has a high incidence of rodents, but the housing areas are largely free of them because of the eradication program.

During the dry winter months a humidifier is a valuable asset and is a necessity for small children and those with respiratory conditions. Humidifiers are provided for Embassy-furnished quarters. Respiratory conditions may also be exacerbated by air pollution.

Water in the Embassy housing areas is potable and need not be boiled. It is heavily chlorinated, but boiling will remove this taste. Fluoride levels are inadequate, but supplemental fluoride tablets are available from the Health Unit on request. Bottled water is also available at post and can be purchased.

Care must be exercised when preparing fruits and vegetables purchased on the open market and in the commissary. Only fruits and vegetables with skins that can be scrubbed or peeled should be eaten raw. Avoid leafy vegetables and fruits of the berry variety. Freshwater fish, oysters, clams, and meats purchased on the local market should be thoroughly cooked before eating.

An allergist is available; however, if you require allergy shots, bring enough vaccine to last the entire tour, or be sure that prescriptions can be refilled by mail. Also bring a letter from your doctor describing the allergy and treatment.

Bring adequate supplies of specific medications with you. Make arrangements with your doctors at home to have the medication refilled and mailed to you.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

Several different types of opportunities for paid employment exist at post. Those interested in working should write to the personnel officer prior to arrival and enclose a completed Standard Form 171. In many cases, however, it is impossible to make any definite arrangements or gather pertinent information until after arrival at post. It is possible to find work which pays well, is personally satisfying and fulfilling, and is useful experience for future employment. This, however, is more often the exception than the rule.

The Ministry of Justice, which supervises alien employment in Korea, has approved employment on the local economy for spouses/dependents of American diplomatic personnel in the following categories:

- Educational institutions and foreign language studies.
- Cultural organizations.
- Research projects.
- Press.

Waivers can sometimes be obtained for other employment categories which the Ministry of Justice has declared as inappropriate; however, the employer must be a duly registered American firm with offices in Seoul. To date the Embassy has had only one success in obtaining approval for a dependent to work in an area outside of the four categories mentioned above. Requests for exceptions for employment in clerical, secretarial, or services-related industries have been universally denied, and it is un-

likely the Ministry's plan includes change. Dependents are required to pay income tax and dues levied by the Korean Government on any remuneration arising from their employment.

To obtain ROK Government approval for employment on the local economy, certain forms must be completed and submitted to the Embassy's Administrative Office for submission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These forms are available in the Personnel Office.

The following are general areas of employment:

- Employment in the Korean Business Community. Korean companies and government agencies may employ English-speaking persons both part time and full time to edit correspondence and other English-language materials, make English tapes for broadcasting, and teach English or conduct conversation circles for their employees. (Some jobs advertised as full time may actually be part time.) Some of these jobs are found through people currently holding such positions. The Personnel Office and the Community Liason Office receive inquiries from Korean firms who want to employ native English speakers. This information is passed on to those in the community who have indicated an interest. The Personnel Office and the CLO Office also keep on file resumes from spouses interested in working. Women should, however, be aware that women in responsible positions in Korea are rare.

- Employment in the Embassy. Short-term, secretarial, part-time, intermittent, and temporary positions are occasionally available. American Family Member (AFM) positions are also sometimes available. Some spouses have worked in the Embassy their entire stay in Korea. Working in the Embassy has the advantage of getting to know the Embassy community better and faster. Preference for part-time, intermittent, and temporary and AFM positions are given to Embassy spouses for security reasons. Standard Form 171 should be submitted to the personnel officer prior to arrival. A few positions are available in the Embassy Association (USEA). The Embassy, the military, and the USEA have excellent summer-hire programs for teenage dependents (ages 16 and older). All Embassy teenagers desiring summer employment are usually placed. Hourly wages are the same for summer-hire teenagers in the Embassy or the military (ages 15 and up) and slightly lower for younger children (ages 12–14) employed in the Embassy Association's summer recreation program.

- Jobs in the Military Community. These are handled by the Civilian Personnel Office on Yongsan 8th Army post. Secretary, teacher, teacher's aide and child care jobs are the most frequently available. Jobs are advertised in the Army Weekly Bulletin. Preference is given to military dependents (who, depending on their spouse's rank, have a harder time finding employment than Embassy spouses). Jobs with specific educational requirements are often hard to fill. Embassy spouses and dependents should not overlook these opportunities. Those interested in teaching jobs at post should be aware that these can be arranged only after arrival on post. All local hires by the DOD schools are made at the start or after the start of the school year, if a teacher shortage arises.

- Jobs in the Overseas Community. Seoul has a large foreign community and this generates some jobs, principally at Seoul Foreign School, Seoul International School, and Seoul Academy. Occasionally spouses have done freelance writing or other work for American or foreign companies in Seoul. Those with special skills and interest in this area should contact U.S. offices of companies which have branches in Korea.

- English Teaching. Native English speakers are in great demand for tutoring college students and adults. Teaching can be done at universities and businesses or in the teacher's or pupil's home. References are generally through word of mouth.

  Those interested in teaching English should make their interests known to the Community Liaison Office at post, friends, and to those who are already teaching.

- Volunteer Work. Some spouses are involved in community services and welfare activities. This includes volunteer work for the Red Cross, the 1988 Seoul Olympics Committee, Foreigners Counseling Service, American Womens Club, Seoul International Women's Association (SIWA), Army Community Services (ACS), schools, hospitals, universities, and the USEA and Embassy Coordinating Committee. The Embassy will furnish letters of volunteer work credit to spouses involved in volunteer work in the community. Further information is available from the personnel officer.

Seoul

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American Embassy

Seoul

Seoul has a population of around 10 million. It is located in the northwest part of the Republic, about 30 miles south of the Military Demarcation Line which separates North and South Korea.

The name is thought to have developed from "Sorabol," the name for the capital of the Silla Kingdom. Established in 1392 as the capital by the first emperor of the Yi Dynasty, Seoul was originally entirely surrounded by four hills that now merely form the boundaries of the downtown area. The urbanized area extends 15–20 miles in all directions. The Han River flows through the southern part of the city to the Yellow Sea.

Seoul was a major casualty of the Korean War, and 80% of the city was razed. Since that time modern buildings have sprung up, although areas of ramshackle squatters huts and shops can still be seen. Factories and plants have mushroomed in the city's southern sectors. Today, Seoul is the political, cultural, educational, business, and transportation center of the Republic.

Seoul is the repository of much of Korea's historic past. Its special lure and charm are its palaces, parks, and museums. The city was originally surrounded by walls built by the first Yi Dynasty emperor in about 1400, and sections of these walls can still be seen. Of the eight gates which gave access to the city, four are still standing.

South Gate, between the Chancery and the Military Reservation, was used for ceremonial entries into the city. East Gate is the site of the city's largest market. Duksoo Palace, near the Ambassador's residence and not far from South Gate, is now a public park. The National Museum and the National Fine Arts Museum are on the palace grounds.

The Capitol Building, near the Chancery, is situated behind Kwanghwamoon Gate, which was once the entrance to Kyungbok Palace. The palace is now directly behind the Capitol Building. Blue House (so called because of its roof of unique blue ceramic tile) is the official residence of the President and is located near the Capitol Building at the foot of Pukhan Mountain.

Changduk Palace, the Secret Garden, Changgyongwon, and the Chongmyo Royal Shrine, are located only a few blocks from Compound II, an Embassy housing area. A brand new zoo is located at Seoul Grand Park, a major, new, recreational park facility on the southern outskirts of Seoul.

The city of Seoul has undergone continuous change in the past few years. A drive up Namsan (South Mountain) affords a magnificent view of the city; apartment buildings rise atop the hillsides and skyscrapers shoot up from the small crowded shops of the past.

The Post and Its Administration

The Chancery is located in an eight-story building with adequate parking on a major street, Sejong-ro, in the heart of downtown Seoul. The Foreign Ministry is across the street. The USIS building is 5 blocks away, near City Hall and several major hotels.

The American Ambassador is the ranking U.S. official in the Republic of Korea, and the Deputy Chief of Mission is second in command. The Embassy consists of the usual Foreign Service elements, each headed by a Foreign Service officer of Counselor Rank: Administrative, Consular, Political, USIS, and Economic Sections. A Consulate and a USIS American Cultural Center is located in Pusan; twoother one-officer USIS American Cultural Centers are located in Kwangju and Taegu.

Several representatives of other U.S. Government departments are also assigned to the Embassy. The Foreign Commercial Service and Foreign Agricultural Service are each represented in Seoul at the Counselor level and, together with the Economic Section, represent U.S. trade and commercial interests. Other agencies also represented in Seoul include the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), U.S. Customs Service and the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Administrative services to all agencies in the Embassy are provided by the Administrative Section.

In addition, a substantial Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group—Korea (JUSMAG–K) is assigned to the Embassy. Its Commander, a two-star general, is responsible to the Ambassador for a variety of programs designed to assist the ROK forces maintain a modern, combat-ready military establishment. JUSMAG–K also depends upon the Embassy for accreditation and administrative matters involving the Korean Government.

U.S. military forces in Korea are commanded by a U.S. Army four-star general who also serves as Commander, U.S. Eighth Army; Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Forces Korea (CINC/USFK); Commander-in-Chief, U.N. Command (CINC/UNC); and Commander-in-Chief, Combined Forces Command (CINC/CFC). In the latter two capacities the general is responsible for administering the Armistice through the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) which convenes periodically at Panmunjom in the DMZ and is the joint U.S.-ROK Commander who would conduct the battle should

Above: City Hall, Seoul, just a few blocks from the Chancery. Below: The Chancery, Seoul.

the Armistice be breached and war again break out on the peninsula. Both of these responsibilities have devolved upon the United States in the aftermath of the Armistice of July 1953 and of the United States' commitment assumed in the Mutual Security Treaty of 1954.

Ranking representatives of the U.N. and Combined Forces Commands regularly attend the Ambassador's weekly Country Team meetings and in every respect the ranking U.S. military officer in Korea (the "CINC") is a fully participating member of the Country Team.

A U.S.-Republic of Korea Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) was signed in Seoul on July 9, 1966, and went into effect on February 9, 1967. The agreement establishes the conditions for the stationing of U.S. Armed Forces and their civilian components in Korea. It is administered by a Joint Committee operating through numerous subcommittees. The agreement has been particularly effective in dealing with the acquisition and release of facilities of the U.S. Armed Forces, stabilizing labor relations between the U.S. Armed Forces and its Korean employees, and in dealing with the sensitive problem of offenses committed against the Korean population by U.S. service personnel.

Travel to Korea is by air. Personnel assigned to posts outside Seoul normally have 1–3 days consultation in Seoul before proceeding to their field posts. New arrivals should advise their agency of their arrival time well in advance. All expected personnel are met at Kimpo Airport, about 15 miles from the city, by a staff member from their office. You are assisted through customs and accompanied to your quarters.

Embassy offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5 pm with a half hour for lunch. All offices are open during lunch hour.

If you arrive unexpectedly but during working hours, call your agency or the Personnel Office (tel. 732–2601, ext. 4121) from the airport. If you arrive during nonworking hours, call the Marine Guard at the Chancery (tel. 732–2601, ext. 4412/4411) and ask for the telephone number of the duty officer, who will assist you.

If you proceed to the city, take a taxi from the airport to the Chancery where a Marine Guard, on duty 24 hours, will be able to assist you. Taxi fare to the city is about 5,000 won, and no tipping is required. Even though taxis are metered, agree with the driver on a stipulated amount beforehand. Money can be exchanged at the airport.

Report to the Personnel Office as soon as possible after you arrive to begin preliminary orientation and briefing. Bring passports and international health records for the entire family. It is not necessary to bring pictures, these will be taken by the Embassy and enough copies will be printed for Embassy and Foreign Office identification cards and drivers licenses.

Posts in Korea are authorized R&R travel. The designated R&R point is Tokyo. However, employees can opt for R&R to the authorized port in the United States, which is Seattle.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Official travelers who are direct-hire employees of agencies represented in the Embassy are, when possible, assigned transient quarters with cooking facilities (with the usual 50% reduction in per diem). Other travelers stay in hotels, some within walking distance of the Embassy. These include the Chosun, Hilton, Lotte, Shilla, Hyatt and Seoul Plaza Hotels (expensive), the Koreana Hotel (moderate), and the inexpensive Naija Hotel (a military R&R hotel for stays up to 7 days).

Permanent Housing

All Embassy personnel live in one of three housing areas: Southpost Embassy Housing, immediately adjacent to the military facilities at Yongsan and a 15-minute drive from the Embassy; Compound I, which includes the Ambassador's residence, a 10-minute walk from both the Embassy and USIS; and Compound II, a 10-minute walk from the Embassy and a 25-minute walk to USIS. All of these areas are serviced by a USEA shuttle bus.

Embassy personnel are placed in government quarters immediately upon arrival. Housing assignments are made by the General Services Office, Housing Management Branch, in accordance with established policy. Offices other than the General Services Office cannot assign nor promise specific houses or apartments to personnel.

Housing is predesignated for the Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission, counselors, and some other senior Embassy officers. All other employees are assigned to quarters based primarily on representational requirements and family size. Inform the Embassy as soon as possible of your family size along with the ages and sexes of children, so that appropriate housing can be assigned.

A Welcome Kit containing sheets, blankets, ironing board, iron, and a limited supply of china, glassware, flatware, and kitchen utensils is available until your household effects arrive. No charge is made for the Welcome Kit unless items are broken or lost. A crib is also available for loan. Food for 1 or 2 days will be placed in quarters and billed to your Embassy Association account.

Compound I. Compound I is a pleasant, tree-shaded area consisting of the residences of the Ambassador, DCM, and four counselors. A new official residence was completed in early 1976. It is a five-bedroom, Korean/Western-style house with high vaulted ceilings and a spacious entertainment area, as well as separate family living and dining areas. The surrounding gardens are pleasantly landscaped and spacious for outdoor representational functions and include a swimming pool and tennis court.

The DCM resides in a three-bedroom, two-story combination Korean/Western-style house. Three other houses on Compound I are two-story, four-bedroom, two-bath, Western-style houses. The fifth is Japanese-style and has three-bedrooms. Servants quarters are provided.

Top: Ambassador's residence (Compound I). Left: DCM's home (Compound I). Bottom Left: Senior officer's home (Compound I). Bottom Right: Senior officer housing (Compound II).

Compound II, a large walled-in area near the Capitol Building and the Embassy, contains 8, two-story, four-unit apartment buildings, 4 townhouse units, and 11 houses. Four of the houses are Japanese-Western style with Western plumbing, hot water system, and central heating. Three of the Japanese/Western houses are two bedroom, and one is three bedrooms. The remaining seven houses are two-story, four-bedroom, two-bath, Western-style homes. Servants quarters are provided. The four townhouse units are three-bedroom, two-bath, with fireplaces.

The apartment buildings are two-story, with two ground-floor apartments and two second-floor apartments. Each has a small living-dining area, kitchen and bath, and two bedrooms; some have fireplaces. These apartments average 800 square feet and have limited storage space. Apartment dwellers entertain out of doors in the common area between buildings when weather permits, because of the limited space. Singles and couples without children are generally placed in the apartment units. Many prefer the convenience of the downtown location of Compound II.

Air pollution is a major problem in downtown Seoul, and it may aggravate sinus conditions. The lawns between the buildings, trees, shrubbery, and flowers add a comfortable touch to Compound II. Housing is well maintained; furniture and furnishings are of modern design and either new or in good condition. Servants quarters (for one servant per apartment) are in a separate building; servants are not permitted to live in the apartments. An indoor tennis court and an indoor heated swimming pool are available for year-round use.

South Post is an Embassy housing area adjacent to the U.S. Eighth Army's military reservation. Houses here are one-story, modern in design, with two to five bedrooms. The two-, three-, and five-bedroom houses are duplexes. All have fireplaces. Each has central heating, a living-dining room, kitchen, two baths, small utility room, servants or storage room, a family room/breakfast nook area, and lawn. Houses are cinder-block construction and about 30 years old. They are well maintained and considered adequate family housing, similar to a Virginia suburban area. Children are able to ride their bicycles freely and safely, and the air is somewhat less polluted than downtown.

Employees should be aware that large dogs are a problem in all housing areas, since residents must share grounds and individual fences are not generally provided. Pets must be kept in fenced areas or on a leash when outside quarters.

Furnishings

Senior officer residences on Compounds I and II are completely furnished and include air-conditioners, dishwasher, freezer, and automatic washer and dryer.

All houses and apartments have basic furniture, including lamps, carpeting, electric range, electric refrigerator, dishwasher, at least two air-conditioners (or central air) and a vacuum cleaner. Twin-, double-, and queen-size beds are provided, but at a given time all sizes may not be available. Sheets for all sizes are usually available in the PX. Houses with fireplaces are equipped with fire screens and tools. Push mowers are provided, but employees may wish to bring a power mower to post. Lawns on South Post vary in size but many employees invest in power mowers or employ a gardener. Power mowers and lawn and gardening equipment, can also be purchased from the PX. Employees are responsible for maintaining their own lawns.

Employees living in apartments have access to an Embassy washer/dryer facility. All houses have a washer, dryer, and freezer.

Include in your shipment of household effects bed and table linens, china, glassware, kitchen utensils, appliances, radio, TV, bridge table and chairs, iron and ironing board, wall hangings, and other ornamental items. Such items are usually found at the PX, but availability or selection cannot be assured. Attractive decorative objects, such as brass, screens, scrolls, paintings, and chests, are available locally.

Utilities and Equipment

All houses and apartments are equipped with hot and cold running water, tiled bathroom, tubs, and an overhead shower. Many apartments and houses have fireplaces. The occupant must provide the firewood. A telephone is installed in each home; monthly cost is reasonable.

Electric current is 110v, 60-cycle, single-phase, two-wire, AC. Voltage is relatively constant, so voltage regulators are unnecessary.

Electric appliances useful at post are vaporizers, coffee makers, toasters, waffle irons, hair dryers, electric blankets, and blenders. All are available at the Yongsan PX. TV's and stereo equipment can also be purchased at the Yongsan PX. Selection varies considerably but you may special order this equipment.

Food

Employees purchase most food from the Eighth Army commissary on South Post or from the U.S. Embassy Association commissary on Compound II. The Army commissary amply stocks most items found in U.S. supermarkets, including a limited selection of fresh fruits and vegetables in season; frozen meats; reconstituted milk and other dairy products; frozen, canned, and packaged foods, etc. Milk and other dairy products are reconstituted with coconut oil. An adequate supply of baby foods is usually available. A few items such as instant coffee, liquor, cigarettes and gasoline are rationed, but Embassy people find this presents no problem. You do not need to import food or to bring a supply with you. The small commissary on Compound II also carries a limited stock of canned goods, frozen meats and vegetables, and some speciality items. Employees also use the large Air Force commisary located in Osan, about an hour from Seoul. It is well stocked, and sometimes has items which are not stocked in Seoul.

Mission personnel do not pay a membership fee or deposit to use the Army commissary, and all purchases are on a cash basis. The combined monthly allowance for pur-

chases at the Army commissary and PX depends on family size, and has been found ample for all categories of personnel.

Newly arrived Mission personnel are automatically eligible for membership in the U.S. Embassy Association and are able to use the facilities of the Compound II commissary, where purchases can be put on a charge account basis payable monthly. A modest, annual fee is charged for Association membership.

A cafeteria in the Chancery and a snackbar in the USIS building are operated by the U.S. Embassy Association. The Association also operates the U.S. Embassy Club on South Post, which has a lounge, tavern and three dining rooms, some of which are used for parties, recitals, dinners or other functions. In addition, Embassy personnel have access to several military clubs—membership fees are charged.

All the leading hotels have Western-style restaurants. A number of Chinese and Japanese restaurants are located in the city, as well as a host of Korean restaurants.

Local Markets. Imported foods on the local market are expensive; the methods of handling and marketing local foods are often considered unsanitary by Western standards. Because of the language barrier and the bargaining that must be done, many personnel have a servant buy those supplies obtained from local vendors. Fresh fruits and vegetables from these vendors should be of the variety that can be peeled and/or cooked before eating. Some local stores and vendors claim to sell parasite-free vegetables and fruits; in the absence of continuing reliable inspection, these should be treated by the cooking and/or peeling method, or by soaking in accordance with internationally established practice. Those interested in gardening can purchase seeds and transplants at the PX or on the local market.

Liquor Sales. Liquors, wines, and mixes can be purchased at military and USEA facilities, within ration limits using the PX ration control plate. Most Embassy personnel purchase beverages from La Cave, a USEA run liquor and wine store, next to the main club building on South Post. La Cave has a much wider selection of wines than the military Class VI stores. The USEA commissary on Compound II also sells liquor and wines.

Clothing

Korea is a four-season country with a climate comparable to that of the northeastern U.S. During office hours, men and women dress as they would in offices in the U.S. Offices are well heated in winter and air-conditioned in summer.

Korea exports a wide array of clothing items, many of which can be purchased locally. Major American and European designer clothes can be purchased here, but availability depends on what the factories are producing at that time. Silks and polyester dresses and blouses are available all year; linen and cotton are found in early spring and summer. All sizes, brands, styles, and colors are not always available. However, if one enjoys shopping and is persistent, real bargains on excellent quality items can be found.

Wool and acrylic sweaters; casual, knit shirts (several styles and brands); tennis, aerobic, jogging and other canvas/leather casual shoes; hiking boots; winter boots, and leather "dock siders," can be purchased inexpensively for children and adults. Many types, styles, and brands of raincoats, jackets, and coats are also available locally for all ages. The quality of the export goods available on the local market varies, and one must check individual items for flaws, etc.

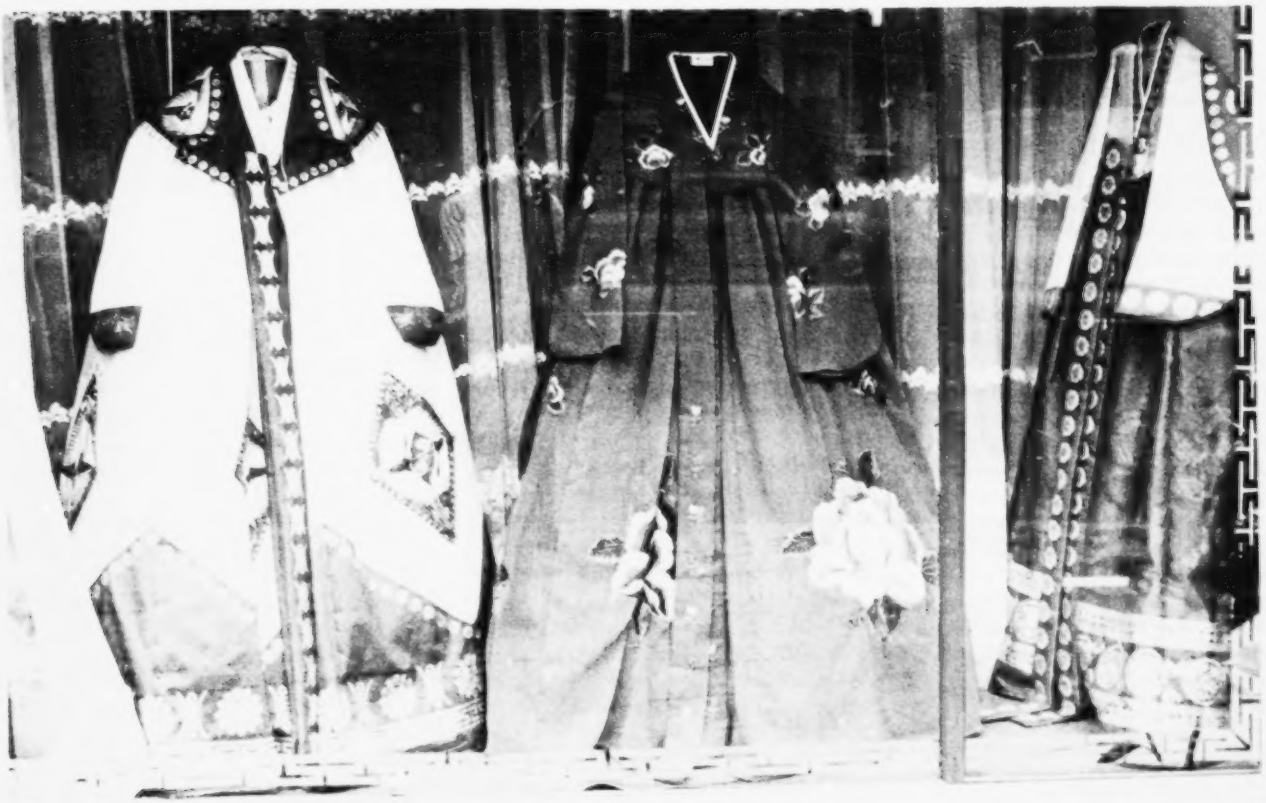
Men. Dark suits in fabrics suitable for the season are appropriate for summer and winter wear. A conservative dark business suit is acceptable for most official receptions and for cocktail or dinner parties throughout the year. On a few occasions, dinner jackets are appropriate. Other formal clothing is rarely necessary. Shirts, underwear, socks, ties, and shoes are available at the PX, although the choice of styles and sizes is limited. Those with definite preferences or those who are hard to fit should bring clothing or arrange for periodic replenishments from the U.S., mailed through APO facilities. The PX carries suits, and a wide variety of materials for tailoring is available in the Friendship Arcade, located on the Yongsan military post and in tailor shops in Itaewon, a shopping area near South Post. Local tailors are good and relatively inexpensive, and a wide variety of Korean fabric is available.

Women. Boots, raincoats, winter and spring coats, sports clothes, and accessories for all seasons are required. Dresses, coats, suits, shoes, sportswear, and lingerie sold in the PX are usually medium-priced, name brands found in U.S. department stores. Styles, sizes, and colors are somewhat limited.

Korea's textile industry produces a great variety of beautiful cottons and synthetics in addition to the traditional silks and brocades. Imported fabrics are available in the PX on a very limited scale. A great deal of dressmaking is done here; local dressmakers range from excellent to mediocre. The Friendship Arcade and Itaewon shops have Korean dressmakers. Some fabrics suitable for dresses and suits are available at the PX and in the Friendship Arcade. Most women are able to find suitable, readymade clothing available locally, or they use a local dressmaker.

Women dress more conservatively than they do in the U.S. Seoul is not a "dressy" post, and entertainment is informal. Long or short dresses are usually appropriate for most social events. In deference to local custom, American women wear clothing that is not conspicuously bare. Hats are rarely required. Bring shoes, especially if you have a difficult time getting shoes to fit. The PX carries women's shoes, but styles and brands are limited, and popular sizes sell out quickly. Some men and women have had shoes made locally with varying degrees of success. They are inexpensive, and the leather is good quality. Soft-soled or knitted slippers are worn in Korean homes because it is customary to remove

Above: Embassy Club delicatessen, South Post. Below: Traditional dresses, usually silk, are still worn for formal and special occasions, and may be made to order.



shoes before entering houses; these can be purchased here. Well-made leather and eelskin handbags are available locally.

Children. Although the PX carries a fair stock of children's summer and winter clothing, supplies are unreliable. Bring any special items. Many parents use mail-order houses to replenish children's wardrobes if they cannot find items either locally or at the PX. All kinds of children's jackets, snowsuits, sweaters, pants, jeans, etc. are available locally and are quite inexpensive. Sizes and color selections may be limited at times. Children's casual shoes and boots can be purchased locally or at the PX, although selection varies.

Babies' clothing and equipment, including cribs, playpens, high chairs, etc., are available but are not always in stock. Baby and infant clothing of Korean manufacture is plentiful, but not always inexpensive. The PX has a limited supply of preteen and teen clothing. However, a wide array of teen clothing is available locally. As with other clothing, these items are made for export to the U.S., Europe, and Japan; brands and styles vary depending on what items the factories are producing. Teens enjoy shopping in Korea. The PX also carries a variety of toys for children, and a large selection of stuffed toys is available locally.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

The central PX maintained by the Eighth Army is used by most Embassy personnel for basic supplies and services. A few smaller PX's are on the military reservation, and each military installation in Korea has a PX, though many carry only a limited supply of basic personal needs. Although a variety of merchandise is carried at the main PX, choice is often quite limited as to brand, model, size, color, etc. Many Embassy personnel place orders with mail-order houses or their own suppliers in the U.S. Orders are sent via APO. The main PX has a mail-order department; delivery takes 1–3 months.

The PX carries toiletries, cosmetics (some items are rationed and brands are limited), home medicines, housewares, sheets, bedspreads, pillows and pillowcases, tobacco products, some sports equipment, electric appliances, records, paperback books, cameras and film (including processing), computers and computer supplies, video machines, tapes and equipment, and record players and stereo equipment.

Friendship Arcade near the PX has the following services: wrapping and packing; Korean yard goods, dressmaking/tailoring; ceramics, Korean jewelry and handicrafts; pianos and guitars, optical service; shoe repair; and printing service for business cards and invitations. Camera, radio, and TV repairs can also be obtained in a shop adjacent to the commissary. The Chosun Gift Shop, operated by military officers' wives, carries specialty items such as handicrafts made in East Asian countries, including Chinese handmade carpets (supply varies).

Several factories located near and around Seoul allow Embassy personnel to purchase items at considerable savings. The most popular factories include: stainless steel and silverplate flatware; fishing rod and reel; Parka crystal; clocks; pianos; and ceramics.

Basic Services

The military compound has several beauty shops. Korean operators give permanents, do hair tinting and dying, clean and set wigs, and give manicures, facials, and massages. Downtown Seoul also has good beauty and barber shops.

Shoe repair facilities are fair; drycleaning and laundry service is good, as are camera, radio, and TV repair facilities. The PX garage provides car repair service. A few other local garages do satisfactory repairs, but due to the language barrier they are not often used by Embassy personnel.

The Army's Special Services operates the newly remodeled (August 1985) Yongsan Library on the military compound. It has an excellent variety of books, both fiction and nonfiction, plus tapes and records on loan. However, books for children of all ages are few. Moreover, youngsters under 10 are not encouraged to use the library if they are not accompanied by an adult.

Domestic Help

Domestic servants are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Newcomers with young families will spend some time locating, and more time training, a servant. Single people living in Compound II often share a cook/maid; this arrangement can usually be made within a few days of arrival.

Most couples find that one servant for general housework, laundry, and kitchen help is sufficient. Some families with children or those who entertain frequently, may find more than one servant necessary. Cooks with experience in Western cooking are available. The greatest problem, of course, is language. Domestics who have worked for Americans for some time can speak and understand sufficient English to take oral messages and instructions, and, in a few cases, can write simple English.

Some families hire a houseyardman to do the yard work and heavy cleaning once a week. Most single personnel and couples without children have a combination cook/maid or, if they prefer to do their own cooking, a maid. Quite frequently two persons share the services of the maid who works half a day for each.

Servants salaries are reasonable (but not cheap) and are paid in local currency. Detailed information on salaries, bonuses, rice money (for full-time servants), medical examination, identification cards, etc., is available at post.

When servants are injured or become ill on the job, the employer is not legally responsible for seeing that they get proper medical attention. Workmen's compensation insurance for personal-hire servants is available through the Embassy Association at reasonable cost, and is recommended.

Religious Activities

American and European missionaries and military chaplains provide religious services and Sunday School in English. The U.S. Army has English services for the following: nondenominational, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Jewish. Roman Catholic Mass is also offered in Spanish.

Seoul has several Christian churches where English-language services are held, including Seoul Union Church (interdenominational), Anglican, Greek Orthodox, the International Union Church of Seoul, Seoul Memorial Baptist Church, Christian Science, Seventh-day Adventist, and Lutheran. Many other Protestant and Catholic churches throughout Korea have services in Korean.

Education

Dependent Education

Several educational options for dependents are available at post. However, per regulation, the maximum educational funds allowed are the same as the tuition and transportation costs of the DOD school at post. Any additional tuition/transportation costs incurred at schools other than DOD will be at employees expense. DOD rates for the 1985–1986 school year are: kindergarten: $2,750; grades 1–12: $4,950. Embassy dependents are now authorized to attend DOD schools.

DOD Schools. The DOD dependents schools, consisting of the Seoul American Elementary School (K–6) and the Seoul American High School (grades 7–12), are on the military reservation near the South Post housing area. They are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. Enrollment in 1984–85 was 1,400 students in K–6; and 1,000 students in grades 7–12.

Tuition and transportation costs for the DOD dependents school are covered by the post education allowance. Reimbursement of tuition to contract employees is governed by the terms of their contracts. The schools furnish textbooks and most materials. School buses pickup and return children living in Compounds I and II. Children on South Post walk to and from school, except for grades K–1, who are bused.

The school year, consisting of 2 semesters requiring a minimum of 175 days, is in session from late August to early June. Normally, the school observes all legal American holidays, the day after Thanksgiving, 2 weeks at Christmas, and 1 week at Easter. There may also be additional holidays for teacher-training institutes, high school examinations, and inclement weather.

Grade placement is the principal's responsibility. Initial grade placement is made through screening and presentation of official transcripts. Parents of students in grades 7–12 should hand-carry report cards and/or unofficial transcripts for placement purposes. In addition, the student's immunization record must be presented. The required tine test can be administered in the Embassy Health Unit.

Reports to parents are made every 9 weeks. Students in grades 7–12 receive academic grades of A, B, C, D, or F Senior high students in grades 11 and 12 may request a minimum schedule permitting them time out of school to pursue career education work/study courses.

Children registering in the fall for kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before December 31 of that year. Parents must verify the age of the child by presenting a birth certificate, baptismal record, or certified statement at the time of registration.

Children enrolling in DOD dependents schools must speak English commensurate with their school grade level. Those unable to do so may be assigned to special classes.

The curriculum for K–6 includes English language (reading, penmanship, spelling, grammar, and literature), social studies, mathematics, science, art, music, physical education, health and other subjects as are feasible, including the language and culture of the local area. Curriculum for grades 7 through 12 includes English, mathematics, social studies, foreign languages, science, commercial subjects, physical education, music, home economics, shop, and suitable electives, such as Korean culture, computer courses, and JROTC. Twenty units of work including physical education and health credits completed in grades 9–12 are required for graduation.

The high school has a well-rounded sports program consisting of basketball, baseball, wrestling, soccer, golf, and tennis. Other extra-curricular activities include music (as well as band), dances, newspaper and yearbook, student council, dramatics, and photography. Qualified students can become members of the Quill and Scroll, National Honor Society (both senior and junior), and the Korean Travel and Culture Club. The school complex has a library, science laboratory, and tennis court.

Seoul Foreign School. Seoul Foreign School was founded by missionary parents and provides a nondenominational, quality education for 650 children from prekindergarten–grade 12. In addition to the regular American curriculum, the school also provides the International Baccalaureate program for qualified students.

The school year normally begins in late August and ends in the middle of June, with 180 days of classroom teaching. All teachers are qualified to U.S. private school standards. The school is accredited by the U.S. Western Association of School and Colleges. Twenty credits are required for regular graduation, and 22 are required for the International Baccalaureate degree.

Course curriculum and requirements more closely match those of better U.S. school systems, with the addition of required Christian education courses. There are specialists in art, music, ESL, physical education, Korean language and culture, and computers.

As of September 30, a child must be 4 years old for admission to prekindergarten, 5 years for admission to kindergarten and 6 years old for first grade.

Seoul Foreign School has a cafeteria, gymnasium, two libraries, auditorium, a spacious athletic

field, playgrounds, tennis courts, counseling center, and two computer rooms—one for elementary and one for high school.

Seoul Foreign is located about 15 minutes from Compounds I and II, and about 30 minutes from South Post. Many Embassy families send their children to Seoul Foreign School.

Tuition and transportation fees for the 1985–86 school year are: Jr.(pre)kindergarten: $2,435; kindergarten: $2,955; grades 1–6: $4,825; grades 7–8: $5,315; grades 9–12: $5,500.

Seoul International School. SIS is located on a new campus (opened in May 1985) about 25 minutes from South Post and 45 minutes from the Embassy. It provides an academic program for grades prekindergarten through 12. In 1984–85 about 220 students were enrolled in K–5; 120 students in the middle school, grades 5–8; and 130 students grades 9–12.

Facilities include a gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria, library, drama center, music center, art studio, science wing, photo lab, computer center, sports fields, and a separate IEC center for non-English speaking students. Students are taught completely in the IEC center until their English skills are high enough for them to compete in the regular classroom.

SIS is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. They use American curriculum and teachers. Specialists teach art, music, Korean culture, physical education, science and ESL.

For enrollment into kindergarten a student must be 5 years old by December 31. Junior kindergarten is one year younger.

Tuition and transportation fees for the 1985/86 school year are: Junior kindergarten: $2,350; kindergarten: $2,850; grades 1–5: $4,850; grades 6–8: $5,250; grades 9–12: $5,550. Family discounts and/or Embassy discounts are available.

Seoul Academy. Seoul Academy offers an English-language academic program for children in grades prekindergarten through 8, and has about 250 students. It is about 20 minutes from South Post and 45 minutes from the Embassy. The school's primary focus is on bilingual children.

Seoul Academy is a member of Earcos-East Asian Regional Council of Schools. The curriculum specializes in reading, English-language development, and special education.

Tuition and transportation fees for 1985/86 were prekindergarten and kindergarten: $1,700; grades 1–8: $3,050.

Also, a small French school exists in Seoul which follows the formal French curriculum for grades K–9, with 120 students enrolled. Transportation must be arranged by the parents.

Special Education. Some programs are available in Seoul for children with special needs. The DOD schools have programs for gifted children and provide individualized programs for the handicapped in full accord with relevant federal law. Be sure to write and find out if an appropriate program is available to suit the individual needs of your handicapped child. Seoul Academy offers special education instruction for students with mild learning disabilities. In all cases, parents are encouraged to hand-carry current records for any children who will need these services.

Nursery Schools & Child Care. Seoul has several good nursery schools. Morning Calm School, located on South Post, is privately run and accepts children ages 4–5. Also, several private nursery schools in Seoul do not provide transportation. Embassy children have attended all these schools.

Early Childhood Learning Center is a school for children ages 2½–5½, and offers preschool, prekindergarten and kindergarten levels. Its curriculum Montessori based. A morning and an afternoon session has a maximum of 25 students in each and two teachers and an aide for each session. The 1984/85 school year ran 10 months from September to June, with summer sessions in June and July. Tuition for the 10 month year was $1,100. Car pools can be arranged.

Army Community Services runs a nursery school on Yongsan South Post, 5 days a week (2 hours per day) for children from 3 years until ready for kindergarten. A child care facility which accepts children 6 weeks to 12 years, also operates here. Hours are 6:45 am until 6:00 pm, Monday–Thursday, and until 10:30 pm, Friday and Saturday. The Yongsan South Post Chapel also has a nursery school 2 days a week for 3-year-olds and 4 days a week for 4-year-olds.

Teaching positions are usually available in one or more of these schools. Since the Embassy community has a sizeable number of preschool children, up-to-date information about these schools and others operating on and off post can usually be obtained from someone with a currently enrolled child.

Special Educational Opportunities

The educational opportunities available to spouses and dependents is one of the most desirable assets of this post. Many Embassy dependents take advantage of this opportunity to either complete undergraduate or graduate degree programs. In some cases individuals have completed both undergraduate and graduate degrees while at post.

In cooperation with the U.S. Military Forces in Korea, the following universities and colleges offer courses in a wide variety of subjects at the undergraduate level, and Embassy personnel are eligible to enroll:

University of Maryland and
Central Texas College.

The undergraduate (BA and BS) degrees offered by University of Maryland include the following at the present time: Asian Studies; Business and Management; Government and Politics; History; Psychology; Sociology.

Central Texas College now offers Drivers Education; Associate Degrees in Data Processing; Food Service; Mechanics; Welding; and other vocational fields.

The school year has five semesters; classes meet 2 nights a week for 3 hours each for 8 weeks. Numerous opportunities exist for learning the Korean language.

Graduate, Masters degree (accelerated) programs are offered by the following universities:

University of Southern California and
University of Oklahoma.

The University of Southern California currently offers masters degrees in Education and in Systems Management. They will accept transfer credits from other member institutions of the University Consortium, including Boston University; Florida St. University; George Washington University; University of Houston; Michigan St. University; and Oregon St. University. A maximum of 9 hours are transferable from schools other than those listed above. The university has 6 terms a year, and classes meet 2 nights a week. Two courses are offered per 8-week term.

The University of Oklahoma presently offers two masters degree programs: Master of Public Administration (Seoul); and Master of Human Relations (Osan AB). A maximum of 8 credits can be transferred from other schools. Classes are held in intensive 6-day seminars, off-duty hours, once a month. Four courses are offered each trimester.

The Moyer Service Club, a military club, has facilities for classes in arts and crafts. The Craft Shop has a wide range of power tools and art supplies available for personal projects. However, children under 16 can participate only if accompanied by an adult. The library and service club hold arts and crafts exhibits from time to time.

Post Orientation Program

An orientation program is held periodically for all new personnel, their spouses, and other adult family members. The program includes talks by the Ambassador or DCM and other senior officers on such subjects as Korean-American political and economic relations, the objectives and organization of the Embassy, and the cultural differences between Americans and Koreans. The U.S. military also holds a monthly "Orientation for Newcomers."

The Embassy administers a Korean language program under the auspices of the Foreign Service Institute. Dependents may participate on a space-available basis. Other language and cultural orientation programs are provided by the USO, University of Maryland, Korean-American Friendship Association, Korean Language Institute, Myong-do, etc.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Koreans are sports enthusiasts and nearly all participate in some form of sports, including golf, tennis, skiing, mountain climbing, and hiking. They are particularly fond of picnicking. Korean spectator sports include soccer, baseball, tennis, and hockey. Foreigners are welcome to attend the competitive sports events held at the Seoul City Stadium. In season the Seoul gymnasium has boxing, wrestling, basketball, or volleyball events.

The Eighth Army sponsors competitive leagues, including football, softball, volleyball, and basketball comprised of units stationed at various camps in Korea and with military units stationed in other Far Eastern countries.

The Eighth Army Golf Club has an 18-hole course on South Post at Yongsan near the Embassy housing area. Regular membership is available to Embassy personnel without a waiting period. Members pay an annual fee, based on grade, from $125–$210 per year. Nonmembers can play as guests of members, paying greens fees of $7 on weekdays and $9 on weekends and U.S. holidays. Clubs, balls, and tees can be purchased at the Pro Shop, which also carries a stock of golf gloves, jackets, caps, and shoes for both men and women. The Club also has a cocktail lounge, dining room, and Class VI store.

In recent years, golf has become an extremely popular sport among Koreans, and several golf clubs are located a short distance outside the city. They are most attractive and challenging, but are expensive.

The Yongsan military base has an 18-lane bowling alley where equipment may be rented. Tennis equipment can be purchased at the Eighth Army Racquet Club or ordered through the PX. The Yongsan military base has 10 outdoor tennis courts and the South Post Embassy housing area has one outdoor court; Compound II has one year-round indoor court. All are equipped with lights for night tennis. Lessons are available. Some tennis equipment can be purchased locally (expensive), at the PX, or at the Eighth Army Racquet Club. Brands and sizes are limited.

In addition to the small (30' x 70'), indoor swimming pool at Compound II, Embassy personnel may use the two outdoor swimming pools at Yongsan during the summer period (Memorial Day-Labor Day). Lifeguards are on duty and pools are checked regularly. A spring and summer swim team program is available for children, and a master's swim program (for adult fitness) was started in 1985. Red Cross swimming classes are held each summer for all age groups. Instruction is occasionally available for adults and children at Compound II. The PX has a small supply of swimsuits, which sell out quickly, for adults and children. Bathing suits for children and bathing caps are available locally.

Membership in the Eighth Army Rod and Gun Club is open to all official personnel for $20 annually. Guns, fishing tackle, and ammunition can be purchased at the Club. Archery equipment is on loan. Anyone who ships firearms in household effects to the U.S. must comply with Internal Revenue Service regulations concerning their importation.

Korea offers pheasant, duck, and geese hunting in designated areas, during a season which runs from November through March. Groups of Embassy pheasant hunters sometimes organize trips to Cheju Island.

Ice skating is available year round at an indoor rink in Seoul. An area on the military reservation is sometimes flooded for outdoor skating during winter, and skating is also done on the Han River and on several rice paddies. You should bring your own skates. Korean

figure, hockey, and racing skates are available, but they are not of the best quality and often do not fit American feet.

Skiing is becoming popular in Korea. Many Embassy families ski on a regular basis from January–March. The best slopes are at Dragon Valley, a 3–4 hour drive from Seoul. Weekend trips are arranged regularly through the CLO and/or USO. However, many families drive themselves on a regular basis. Also two ski areas are located about an hour's drive from Seoul: Chonmasan and Yong-In. Chonmasan is used frequently by Embassy personnel as it is close, convenient, and has night skiing. Since natural snowfall near Seoul is unreliable, both Yong-In and Chonmasen rely on manmade snow, enabling the areas to operate effectively for the whole season. All areas operate poma lifts and chair lifts which are kept in good condition.

Service at Dragon Valley is improving although their ski patrol and lift operators, while the best trained in Korea, still do not meet American standards. Most families with young skiers prefer Dragon Valley to the other areas for this reason. A variety of runs are located at Dragon Valley: from beginner to advanced intermediate. Ski etiquette is still lacking on most of the slopes. However, ski weekends are the highlight of many Embassy families winter months.

Ski equipment rentals are available from the Collier Field House on South Post. Skis, boots, and poles are rented at $5.00 per day. Avid skiers may wish to bring their own equipment with them or purchase it before arrival. Ski equipment is limited and expensive locally. However, rental ski equipment is also available at local resorts (expensive). Young skiers may wish to purchase ski helmets in the states, as they are not available locally, and some people consider them desirable. Ski clothes can be purchased or made locally.

Walker Hill, a tourist complex operated by the Korean Government, has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a bowling alley, tennis court, and golf course.

"T" ball and Little League baseball teams are organized during spring and summer for children of Armed Forces and Embassy personnel. In addition, under the military recreation program, football, soccer, basketball, bowling, swimming, softball, and cheerleading are offered during appropriate seasons to these dependents. Embassy people often form a softball team during the summer, and squash, racketball, and handball courts are available on the military grounds.

Tae-Kwon-Do is a Korean martial art (form of karate). Instruction can be obtained in this and other self-defense disciplines for children and adults.

Hiking and picnicking around Seoul are popular in the fall and spring months. The mountains and hills, a short distance from the city, offer relatively easy climbs.

The DOD elementary school, the South Post housing area, and Compound II have playgrounds. South Post has a variety of new recreational equipment on two playgrounds, plus a T-ball/soccer field; and Compound II has a small playground for young children.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Korea has a rich culture, and several palaces, parks, and interesting historical sites are within the city itself. The National Museum, on the grounds of the Kyongbok Palace, has periodic exhibitions of Korea's classic arts and has the finest collection of Korea's world famous celadon pottery. The National Museum of Modern Art, on the grounds of Ducksoo Palace near Compound I, offers several exhibitions during the year and features paintings and other works of leading Korean artists, as well as exhibitions from abroad. A new zoo is located at Kwachon, about a 45-minute drive from downtown. Another small zoo is located at Yong-In Farmland, a family entertainment area about 1 hour from Seoul.

The Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch, was founded by a group of foreign residents of Seoul for the pursuit of Korean studies. The Society has bimonthly lectures designed to assist foreigners in arriving at a better understanding of Korea and its customs. It also sponsors 1-day tours during the spring and fall to various historical areas in and around Seoul and occasionally organizes 2- or 3-day trips to other parts of the country where cultural or natural attractions are found. The Society handles all arrangements for transportation, food, and accommodations.

The American Women's Club, the Seoul International Women's Association, and the Korean Art Club also have day tours to places of interest. The Korea Tourist Bureau and the USO sponsor a variety of tours, in which Embassy personnel may participate.

Mt. Sorak, on the east coast, has several good hotels. This area is a little cooler than Seoul and is popular for hiking and swimming in the summer and mountain climbing in the winter. Roads to the coast are well paved, and can be reached by car from Seoul in 4–5 hours.

Cheju Island, 60 miles off the south coast, has an almost semi-tropical climate. One of the chief attractions is watching the famed women divers of the island dive into the sea, even in winter, and come up with catches of fish. Waterfalls abound and picturesque fishing villages dot the coastline. The island has modern hotels. Cheju can be reached in 1½ hours by air from Seoul; ferries from Pusan, Yosu, and Mokpo take 8–10 hours.

Taechon Beach is a missionary summer resort located on the west coast, about 3 hours by car from Seoul. It is a rustic, quiet place—not a luxury resort—with no stores, restaurants, clubs, telephone, or TV. Simple, furnished cabins and rooms at a small lodge are available for rent at reasonable prices. If you rent a cabin, you must bring bed and bath linens and most food supplies. The main attraction is a large, beautiful, sandy beach, wide and flat with no undertow. Lifeguards are on duty at certain hours. Swimming is ideal and safe for children.

Entertainment

The National Theater and Sejong Cultural Center feature concerts by both Korean and internationally known artists. Plays in Korean, opera, and ballet can also be seen

there, and the Seoul Symphony Orchestra offers a series of concerts each year.

Korea House was established by the Korean Government for the promotion of international friendship. Traditional Korean dancing and singing are presented every evening except Sunday, along with a Korean buffet. Two, separate fees are required for the dinner show or show only.

Seoul has many theaters that show Korean, American, and foreign films. Fairly recent American movies are shown daily at two movie theaters on the military reservation. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, the Compound II theater shows films.

The Yongsan Players are an active amateur theater group sponsored by the Eighth Army; all Embassy personnel are welcome to participate. The Yongsan Chamber Music Society, which has Korean and American professional and amateur members, gives frequent concerts.

Photographers will find many interesting subjects and scenes to photograph. The PX usually carries a good selection of film and a limited selection of cameras. A wider selection is available through PX catalogue sales. Complete facilities for developing black and white film are located at the Moyer Recreation Center at Yongsan.

A limited number of Western-style restaurants are located in Seoul (apart from hotel restaurants which are expensive), making dining out a repetitious affair. However, in preparing for the 1988 Olympics some American fast food chains have opened recently, including Wendy's, Burger King, and Kentucky Fried Chicken. Others are due to open in the next 2 years.

Social Activities

Among Americans. Social life in Seoul is quite active. Private home entertainment includes buffet suppers and bridge parties, as well as more formal entertainment, including receptions, cocktail and dinner parties. Senior officers and their spouses especially are immediately caught up in a social whirl.

Embassy personnel can join a number of clubs that offer a wide variety of activities. Various military clubs are open to all authorized personnel and their dependents. The U.S. Embassy Association Club on the military reservation is the scene of many activities, both official and unofficial. The newly remodeled dining room and lounge are open daily, and a buffet lunch is served on weekdays. The club caters both cocktail and dinner parties. It operates a bakery and delicatessen as well as La Cave, a wine and beverage store. The U.S. Eighth Army Officers Club has a dining room and catering service. Seoul has some nightclubs but prices are high. Many discos are located in town and prices range from moderate to very expensive.

The American Women's Club of Korea engages in many social, cultural, and welfare activities. All American women in Korea are welcome to take part. Many other women's groups are active in social and volunteer work. Gray Ladies, nurses' aides, Red Cross volunteers, etc., should bring whatever uniforms they have on hand. The USO welcomes volunteers to assist the regular staff.

Other organizations are: Shrine Club of Korea, Kiwanis, Masons, Korean-American Association, Korean Association of University Women, YWCA, and the Catholic Men's Club. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, etc., are active. The Summer Youth Program held for children of all ages includes swimming, tennis, and other sports, as well as arts and crafts. The Seoul Youth Scene at the Youth Activities building on the military compound near the high school, is a popular meeting place for younger teenagers. Supervised gatherings include barbecues, picnics, swimming, local tours in the summer, theater parties, and other activities.

International Contacts. Koreans are freely and frequently invited to American homes. They reciprocate by entertaining in restaurants, hotels, and, less commonly, in their homes. No barriers exist, other than language, in associating with Koreans or nationals of any other country

Numerous clubs and associations make it possible to mix with all nationalities. The Seoul International Women's Club offers a wide range of activities, including tours, classes, and interest groups. American women are active in charitable organizations aiding orphanages and hospitals.

Official Functions

Social functions in Seoul are similar to those in the U.S., except that a great many invitations are stag. Protocol followed by the Korean Government closely approximates that of the U.S. Government. Personnel are given detailed information on protocol as required after they arrive. Senior Foreign Service officers and their spouses can expect to be invited to official functions given by the Korean Government and by other diplomatic missions in Seoul. Dress in Seoul is, on the whole, conservative and informal.

A "Hail and Farewell" reception is held periodically for Embassy personnel and spouses. Dependents 18 years of age and over are invited to attend.

Standards of Social Conduct

A copy of the Embassy's "Social Usage in Seoul" is given to all new arrivals. You can obtain further guidance on calls from the senior officer of your section, the senior officer's spouse, and from the protocol officer.

If you want to make calls the first week after you arrive, bring cards in your personal luggage. Most officers have cards printed with one side in English, one side in Korean. This form is widely used in Korea. We suggest that officers wait until they arrive to have cards printed. The fold over "Mr. and Mrs." card is useful, not only for informal invitations but also for informal acceptances, thank you notes, etc. These can be obtained with matching envelopes at the Korean concession in the Friendship Arcade or in Itaewon.

Special Information

Civil defense, air raid drills are usually conducted on the 15th of each month. The drills are always announced in advance in English newspapers. They last 20 minutes; all local business activities cease and traffic comes to a complete standstill. If indoors, you remain there until the siren clears, and if on the street you must go indoors or into an underpass or subway station for the duration of the drill.

Several Embassy personnel have been escorts on "orphan flights" to Europe and various locations in the United States. A donation fee of either $400 (U.S. destinations) or $500 (European destinations), is made to the orphanage group. One person is in charge of three orphans per trip. Persons have some flexibility in routing their return, after delivering the orphans to their destinations, and round-trip tickets are included in the donation fee.

A 3,700 won (about $4.50) airport tax is levied upon departure for all passengers except diplomatic and official passport holders and children under 2 years.

Security at Post

Seoul is one of the safest large cities in the world. Street violence is rare as are home burglaries and car thefts. Access to all Embassy housing areas is controlled by Embassy contract guards.

In recent years, some isolated acts of violence have been directed at U.S. installations. This is a function of political dissidence; the organizers are mostly from a small, but active group of radical university students. During periods of increased tension on university campuses—usually in the spring and autumn—Americans are advised to avoid student demonstrations and political rallies.

Seoul is only 40 kilometers south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), one of the most heavily fortified and tense borders in the world. However, with the exception of incidents along the DMZ and occasional attempts to infilitrate North Korean agents into the South—which almost never involve Americans—peace has prevailed on the peninsula for more than 30 years and life has proceeded normally in all parts of South Korea. The Embassy and the U.S. Military Command work closely together in updating and exercising a country-wide plan to evacuate noncombattants from South Korea in the event of a potential military emergency. Newcomers are briefed on these plans on arrival and all personnel are encouraged to participate in the periodic exercises of the "Noncombattant Evacuation Operations" (NEO) plan.

Special Information—DOD Personnel

The Defense Attache Office is on the seventh floor of the Chancery building. The Defense attache lives either on Compound II or on the Embassy South Post housing area, where other DAO staff members reside, about a 20-minute drive from the Chancery. The staff can use the Embassy's shuttle bus service to and from South Post for a small monthly fee.

Housing

Housing for all DAO personnel is government-provided and -furnished. The present Defense attache resides on South Post. The house consists of 5 bedrooms, 2½ baths, living room, dining room, kitchen, and servants quarters with bath/shower. Standard furnishings, provided by the Embassy, include furniture, lamps, rugs, draperies, stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer, air-conditioners, or central air, dishwasher, and freezer. The operations coordinator and staff personnel usually reside on South Post. Their houses have three bedrooms, two baths, living room, dining room, family room/breakfast nook area, utility room, servants room/storage room, and kitchen. Standard furnishings are provided by the Embassy, and are the same as those listed above for the attache.

Check the inventory of government furnishings on file with AAT–7 and then correspond with the person you are to replace regarding household items that should be shipped to station. Please refer also to the pertinent preceding portions of this report concerning housing, furnishings, clothing, basic supplies and services, etc. Personnel are limited to a maximum of 2,000 pounds or 25% of their household goods weight allowance, unless orders designate otherwise.

Household Effects

Household effects should be consigned to the owner, c/o Transportaion Officer, US Army Garrison Yongsan, APO SF 96301 where they will be stored pending delivery instructions. Personnel are requested to forward the bill of lading number, together with date of packing and name of port where shipped, to the Defense Attache Office to insure receipt of goods. No difficulties have been encountered in customs clearance for household effects. Temporary housekeeping kits with sheets, blankets, dishes, towels, washcloths, etc., are available from the Embassy. However, ship a sufficient quantity of these items in your baggage.

Clothing

Normally, wearing of uniforms is optional for attaches. However, the large number of U.S. military stationed in Korea, frequent functions and official contacts dictate that attaches wear the uniform more frequently here than at other stations. Fatigue or other appropriate field uniform is usually worn when performing field work, and the appropriate dress uniform is required during official visits and social functions. Civilian clothes are usually worn during off-duty hours and at social functions when uniform is not prescribed.

Most types of Army uniforms can be bought at the Eighth Army Quartermaster Sales Store or in the PX. Navy/Marine uniforms and accessories are generally not available in Korea, but a limited number of naval accessories are available at the Naval Advisory Group Detachment, Chinhae. Minimum uniform requirements are those set

forth in parent service regulations. Service and dress aiguillettes are available through DIA and should be drawn before you leave Washington.

The operations coordinator and staff personnel always wear civilian clothes. However, minimum uniform requirements as prescribed in service regulations must be on hand for possible emergency purposes.

Mail

Mail should be addressed as follows:

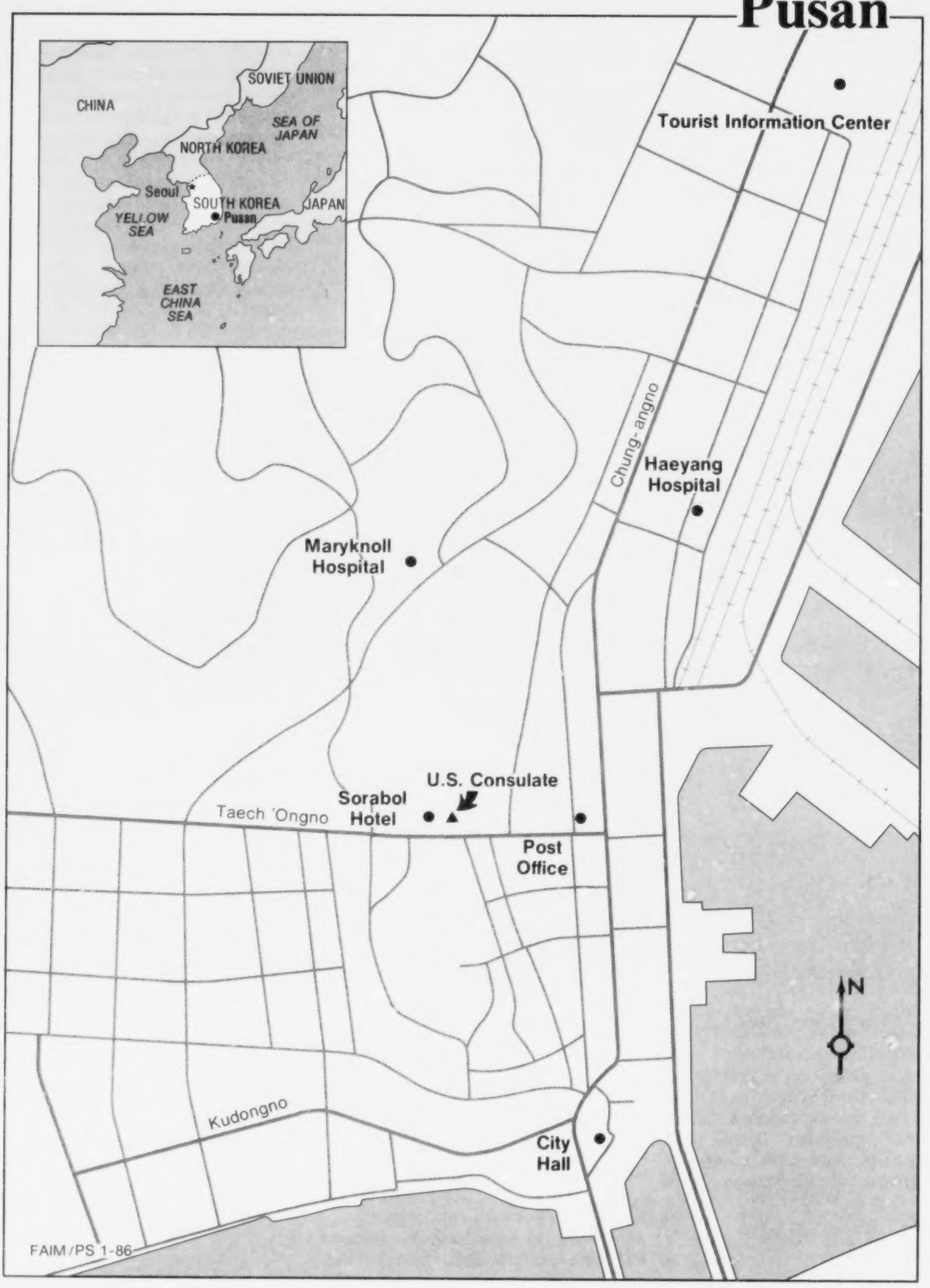
Official: U.S. Defense Attache
American Embassy
APO San Francisco 96301

Personal: (Name)
U.S. Defense Attache Office
American Embassy
APO San Francisco 96301

Entry Requirements

Customs Inspection. Customs inspection in the military terminal is handled by U.S. military personnel. Those arriving via commercial means pass through Korean customs; however, this system poses no problem for DAO personnel.

Embassy Club main dining room, South Post.


Pusan
SOVIET UNION
CHINA
SEA OF JAPAN
NORTH KOREA
Seoul
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
YELLOW SEA
Pusan
EAST CHINA SEA
Tourist Information Center
Chung-angno
Haeyang Hospital
Maryknoll Hospital
U.S. Consulate
Sorabol Hotel
Taech 'Ongno
Post Office
N
Kudongno
City Hall
FAIM/PS 1-86

Consulate

Pusan

Pusan is Korea's second largest city with a population of over 3.5 million. Located about 300 miles south of Seoul at the extreme southeastern tip of the peninsula, Pusan is the principal seaport in South Korea and an important, developing industrial center. The city's port facility has recently undergone major reconstruction and now ranks as one of the major ports in the world. Shipbuilding, automaking, footwear and electronics are the major industries in the area.

Pusan is usually warmer than Seoul with little snow in winter and warm, humid temperatures in summer. Several ROK, government-approved swimming areas are located at the beach resorts near the city. The UN Cemetery; Tongnae Hot Springs, a favorite honeymoon site; and Pomosa, a well-known Buddhist shrine, are within the city limits. One of the most beautifully situated and interesting Buddhist temples in the country, T'ongdosa, is within an hour's drive. Cheju Island, 60 miles off the coast, is accessible by daily domestic flights. A ferry travels daily between Pusan and Shimonoseki. A car ferry to Kobe and Osaka, Japan will be operating soon.

The Post and Its Administration

An American Consulate opened in Pusan in January 1984. Three American officers are currently assigned to the Consulate: a State Department principal officer; a State Department junior officer; and a USIS branch public affairs officer.

Travel from Pusan to Seoul usually takes 5 hours by train, 1 hour by air, or 6 hours by car. Korean Air Lines runs a daily shuttle service between Seoul and Pusan. Japan Air Lines has service from Osaka to Seoul, via Pusan, and daily flights to and from Tokyo.

Mail for Pusan should be addressed:

(Name)
American Consulate
APO San Francisco 96259-0002

(Name)
American Consulate-USIS
San Francisco 96259-0002

Mail can also be sent via the Embassy in Seoul, APO San Francisco, 96301.

Medical facilities, including an emergency room, pharmacy, and dispensary, are available at the Eighth Army Military Compound. However, major surgical/medical services are not available. For minor health problems personnel are referred to Baptist Hospital, which has a foreigner's clinic, with two American doctors and one American dentist. Maryknoll Missionary Hospital also has an American dentist. Several U.S. trained, Korean dentists are often used by Embassy personnel.

Housing

Permanent Housing

The principal officer occupies an official residence which is a 4-bedroom, 4-bath house with ca. 3,400 square feet, located on the Army compound at Hialeah. There is a living-dining room, family room, eat-in kitchen, and adequate representational space. A large patio facilitates outdoor entertaining when weather permits. A large area at the Consulate is used for representational receptions and can accommodate about 120 persons. China, linens and kitchenware are provided for the official residence, as well as 2 refrigerators and 2 stoves.

The USIS-BPAO and State Department junior officer occupy furnished, 3-bedroom apartments with ca. 4,000 square feet each, located on the third floor of the Consulate building. Air-conditioners, table lamps, wall-to-wall carpeting, draperies, washer, dryer, stove, freezer, and refrigerator are also provided. Electricity is 110v, 60 cycles and is adequate for most American appliances.

Food

Personnel in Pusan can use the commissary, PX, and recreational facilities on the 8th Army military compound at Hialeah.

The commissary stocks basic supplies, including some fresh fruits and vegetables. The PX carries a limited selection of the same stock available at the large PX in Seoul, but dryers, stoves, and freezers are also available. Basic services including drycleaning, beauty salons and barbershops, crafts shop, shoe repair, and a garage providing gas and oil are available. Light auto maintenance is done on the compound, but bodywork such as painting or removing dents must be done at Korean garages.

A good supply of fresh fish, fruits, and vegetables are available on the local market. Department stores offer a large selection of fair-quality items such as souvenirs, brass, antiques, silk, lacquer ware, smoky topaz, and amethyst. Korean, Chinese, and Japanese restaurants are in the city. Western foods are usually served in Western-style hotels.

Supplies and Services

Domestic Help

Domestic help is available, but trained help is usually limited to those having worked in the military community for some time.

Religious Activities

Both Protestant and Catholic chapels hold regular church services on base. Other English, Protestant services are available off post.

Education

Dependent Education

A DOD dependents school (kindergarten, elementary, and high school) is located on the Hialeah compound, which Embassy children are now authorized to attend. Children's activities include Scouts, the Explorer's Club, and chapel youth groups. Other youth activities develop from time to time.

An international school, whose curriculum is based on the British system, opened recently. Embassy dependents are authorized to attend this school. Tuition and transportation fees are currently covered by the educational allowance. The school is for preschool and primary grades, ages 3–11. To enter grade 1 (equivalent of U.S. kindergarten) a student must be 5 years old by December 31. In 1984–85, the school had 5 full-time teachers and 60 students: 25% Americans; 75% Western Europeans and other nationalities.

Special Educational Opportunities

The University of Maryland has a branch on the compound, although only a few courses are now available. The University of Southern California, University of Oklahoma and University of Maryland have more extensive course offerings in Seoul.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Recreational facilities include a swimming pool, bowling alley, ball field, gymnasium, racquetball court, steam bath, tennis courts, movie theater, and library.

Personnel in Pusan can become members of the Hialeah Officers and Civilians Club. Currently, no dues are required. The club has a dining room, game room, bar, and room for private parties and floor shows. Pusan has two 18-hole golf courses with memberships available at either the Dong-Nae or Pusan Country Clubs. However, dues are prohibitively expensive. Reasonably priced golf courses are located at both Chinae and Camp Walker, about 1 hour's drive from Pusan. Golf is very popular in Korea and weekends are extremely crowded, particularly Sundays.

Entertainment

Pusan's symphony orchestra gives concerts periodically, and occasionally cultural attractions from Seoul are presented. Several movie theaters show foreign films; the original soundtracks are retained and subtitles are in Korean. AFKN broadcasts AM radio and TV programs daily. Pusan has one FM stereo station. Radios and TV's can be purchased at the PX.

Social Activities

Among Americans. Female spouses can participate in the International Women's Association, the U.S. Army Officer's Wives' Club, American Red Cross, USO, Army Community Services, and can volunteer as teachers, chaperones, program coordinators, and counselors for the schools, chapels, or recreation center. The military has a Masonic lodge, and the Rotary, Lions, etc. have branches here with regular meetings conducted in Korean.

International Contacts. Contact with the Korean community is possible through opportunities to teach English and serve as advisors to student groups and clubs.

Other Posts in Korea

Taegu

Taegu, a city of almost 2 million, is located about 250 miles southeast of Seoul. It is surrounded by mountains, and the climate is similar to that of Seoul, although it is often colder in the winter and hotter in the summer. It is also windy and dusty. Taegu is the home of five major universities and is known as an educational and cultural center. It is in the center of the apple growing region, and its economy is heavily dependent on textiles.

One American officer is stationed in Taegu—the USIS branch public affairs officer. The BPAO occupies a government-leased, furnished, four bedroom house, located in the Tae Myong-Dong district, near Camp Walker. A small refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer, propane gas stove, and air-conditioners are provided. The kitchen is Western style. Electricity is 110v, 60 cycles. The house has a large yard suitable for outdoor entertaining when weather permits. It also has city water which requires both filtering and boiling to guard against diptheria outbreaks. A security guard protects the house for 24 hours daily.

Taegu is about 50 minutes by air from Seoul; 3½ hours by train; or about 4 hours by car.

Mail for USIS personnel should be addressed:

(Name)
American Embassy
USIS: Taegu
APO San Francisco 96301

Personal and official mail is pouched daily from Seoul; packages are pouched weekly from Seoul to Taegu.

Three Army bases are located in Taegu, and an airbase to the north. Distributed among these bases are one commissary, which stocks most basic items and some fresh vegetables; two Post Exchanges; a 9-hole golf course; tennis courts, swimming pool, and basic services; beauty shop, barbershop, shoe repair, and a garage for car repairs. Supplies and selection are more limited in the exchanges and the commisary, than they are in Seoul. No American mechanic is available at the garage, and most parts must be ordered from the U.S.

Embassy personnel may use the Army Officer's Club for entertainment and representational purposes. No membership fees are charged.

Protestant, Catholic, Latter Day Saints, and sometimes Jewish services are held on base.

AFKN has a TV station, and two Korean TV stations also broadcast. Shortwave radio reception is good.

The Army base has a small clinic that branch office personnel can use. The Presbyterian Medical Hospital has modern medical/hospital facilities. A Catholic Hospital is also available.

The Army base has a DOD dependents' school (elementary through high school). Embassy children are still authorized to attend the DOD school. No international school is available. A child care center and preschool is available on base.

The east coast has good beaches near Pohang. Pusan is about a 2-hour drive. Kyongju, a historical area dating from the Silla period, is accessible by car.

Trained domestic help is available, but few domestics speak English.

Kwangju

One American BPAO, stationed at the USIS Center in Kwangju, covers the provinces of Cholla-Namdo and Cholla-Pukto. About 9 million people live in the two provinces—900,000 in Kwangju, the capital of Cholla-Namdo and nearly 400,000 in Chonju, the capital of Cholla-Pukto. Chonju and Kwangju are connected to Seoul and Pusan by a limited access, toll highway. Kwangju is about 4 hours from Seoul and almost 3½ hours from Pusan. A 4-lane super highway between Kwangju and Taejeon will open in fall of 1985.

The USIS BPAO lives in a newly remodeled, Japanese-style, 3-bedroom, 3-bath, government-leased house; 5 minutes by car or a 15-minute walk from the USIS Center. Basic furnishings are provided. It is suitable for an officer with a young family.

The house has oil heat with radiators. Although air-conditioners are installed in each occupied bedroom, summer evenings are generally cool enough for sleeping comfortably without them.

One upright freezer and a large refrigerator can keep a 2-month supply of meat and other foods not available locally. An electric stove, washer and dryer are provided. The kitchen is Western style. All water must be boiled, as diptheria outbreaks occur regularly. Bottled water is available, but expensive.

Electricity is 110v, 60 cycle. Power supply is fairly constant, and the residence has emergency lights. The residence has 24-hour guard service.

Daily flights are scheduled to and from Seoul and Cheju. No air service is provided to Pusan or Taegu. Several express trains travel to and from Seoul every day; one-way travel takes about 5 hours. Seoul bus service is frequent, but conditions are only fair.

Mail for USIS Kwangju should be addressed:

(Name)
American Embassy-USIS Kwangju
APO San Francisco 96301

Personal and official mail is pouched weekdays from Seoul to

Kwangju by overnight train. An APO facility (96324) run by the U.S. Air Force is at the ROK Air Force Base, 30 minutes by car from Kwangju City. But delivery is usually as fast and more convenient through the Seoul APO.

Although the USAF is only a tenant at the ROK Air Force Base, it has most basic facilities found at military installations. The Base Exchange is reasonably well stocked with personal items such as soap, toothpaste, personal hygiene items, stationery, magazines, snack foods, soft drinks, beer, some men's clothing, records, cigarettes, stereo equipment, cameras, and occasional foodstuffs such as soup, coffee, sugar, and tea. Hard liquor and wine are sold through the officer's club and at a small store run by the NCO Club.

The base has no commissary, but the PX stocks milk, margarine, bread, and a few frozen foods. Availability of foods at the Kwangju base is unreliable, and most basic items are bought at the commissaries in Seoul and either shipped or driven back to Kwangju. Local markets have a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, bread, eggs, chicken, and fish. Beef is available, but is not usually cut to Western taste, often is not fresh, and is very expensive.

The base has several concessions, including a barbershop, tailor, drycleaner, shoe repair, watch repair, photo shop, paperback bookstore, and souvenir shop. Base recreational facilities include a gym, tennis court, softball field, library, and theater, which has nightly shows. A 9-hole golf course is at the base. Membership or greens fees for civilians are quite expensive. The snackbar, officers club, and NCO Club all offer eating facilities.

Theaters in Kwangju City show mostly foreign films with original soundtrack and subtitles in Korean. A civic auditorium stages Korean pop and, occasionally, Korean classical concerts. An enclosed sports arena holds basketball, volleyball, and other indoor sports events. The city's large outdoor sports arena is most frequently used for political and civic events or soccer and baseball games. Kwon Country Club, an 18-hole golf course, is located 40 minutes from downtown Kwangju. It has good facilities and gives special consideration and discounts to U.S. diplomats.

The Kumho Cultural Foundation is located 1 block from the BPAO residence and has a small tea room, featuring individual performing artists, from time to time. Also, a chapter of the Royal Asiatic Society was established in 1982, with monthly meetings and sporadic tours to nearby sights.

Kwangju has a first-class hotel, Shin Yang Park, which has Western, Chinese and Japanese restaurants. Prices are expensive. However, the hotel has conference facilities, and there has been an increase in the number of events held in Kwangju in the past few years.

Beaches near Kwangju City are of poor quality and are only accessible by a long drive over dusty roads. One exception is the city of Mokpo, which can be reached by paved road, but the beach there is small and usually jammed with children. Temples and other cultural and scenic spots abound in the two provinces. Mountain climbing and hiking are excellent.

At Yeongkwang, about 1½ hours from Kwangju, there is a community of about 200–300 Americans. Social activities with people from this community are possible. A new bridge opened to Chindo Island, a recreational area with hiking and swimming facilities available.

Korean TV reception is good in Kwangju. Two Korean networks offer a full schedule of variety shows, dramas, and some U.S. shows run with Korean soundtracks. AFKN–TV can be received at the USIS residence only. Reception is only fair at best. AFKN radio fades after sundown.

Medical facilities are adequate. Kwangju has three large hospitals, one run by Presbyterian medical missionaries, and numerous clinics. However, no American doctors are in Kwangju. Adequate medical care is available for emergencies. One American dentist is available and dental care is considered adequate. The Christian Hospital has an excellent dental clinic. The airbase has a clinic for minor ailments and immunizations and a dental clinic. The city sprays heavily in the summer to help prevent the spread of encephalitis. Cholera is now uncommon, but an occasional outbreak of diphtheria still occurs. Personnel should keep their inoculations up to date.

Schools for English-speaking children are not available in Kwangju. Children must attend school in other parts of the country, or out of the country.

Religious services for all faiths are conducted at the airbase, and a weekly service in English is held at the Presbyterian compound.

English-speaking domestic help is almost nonexistent. You must be prepared to learn some Korean or do your own cooking, shopping, and housework.

Notes for Travelers

Getting to the Post

Travel to Korea is by air. Northwest Air Lines and Pan American Airlines are the only American airlines serving Seoul. Employees must use one of these airlines to cross the Pacific and to fly on the sector from Tokyo to Seoul.

Airfreight shipments take about 1 week from the U.S., and household effects and car shipments take from 3 weeks to 4 months. Accompanying baggage should include clothing and personal effects; airfreight might include an electric blanket if you arrive in the winter, and other items to supplement the Welcome Kit.

Mark airfreight shipments as follows:

Full Name (not initials)
American Embassy
Seoul, Korea

Airfreight clearance can be expedited if you send a copy of the Air Way Bill via AIR MAIL to the American Embassy, Attention: GSO/Shipping Unit. Airfreight, when received, is delivered or held in a secured area.

Mark household effects and car shipments as follows:

Full Name (not initials)
American Embassy
Seoul, Korea

Consign shipments via the Port of Inchon, Korea, as a direct shipment. If this arrangement is not possible, consign shipments via the Port of Inchon, Korea, for transshipment at Kobe, Japan; or via CO, Port Operations, Pusan, 2nd Transportation Group, Pusan, Korea. Mark baggage as follows:

For: American Embassy,
Seoul, Korea
M/F: Name of owner

Household effects should be packed in standard-size vans of sturdy plywood and should be steelbanded. Van interiors should be waterproofed to prevent damage during the rainy season.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs requires that a contents declaration list, such as the household effects packing list or inventory, be attached to the documents submitted for obtaining customs exemption, which usually requires a minimum of 5 working days. Therefore, send the bill of lading and packing list to post as soon as possible for advance clearance of household effects shipments.

All removable car accessories should be packed separately, sealed, and placed in the trunk of the car. All such items should be listed on the ocean bill of lading to facilitate claim action in case of loss. Put antifreeze in your car for year-round use, especially if it will arrive during the winter months (November through March).

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

All diplomatic personnel are afforded free-entry privileges for their entire tour for accompanied baggage, unaccompanied airfreight, and household effects. Staff personnel have these privileges only during the first 6 months of their tour.

Those with diplomatic passports are not subject to baggage inspection. If an item is not permitted through customs, it is placed in bond. You will be given a receipt to present to the General Services Office, which will arrange customs clearance.

No limit is placed on the amount of foreign currency you can bring into Korea, provided you declare it. Currency exchange facilities (U.S. currency and travelers checks, not personal checks) are available at Kimpo International Airport. Won, the local currency, cannot be imported. A 3,700-won departure tax is levied at the airport for all passengers except those holding diplomatic passports and children under 2 years of age.

Passage

Personnel assigned to the Embassy must have a valid passport and visa, preferably 2-year multiple entry, to enter the country. An exit permit is not required upon departure. No restrictions are placed on travel within the country or to and from Korea and other countries.

Pets

Pets, by U.S. Government regulation, cannot comprise an official shipment. Shipping pets is solely the employee's responsibility. Personnel arriving with pets should advise the Embassy in advance. The Embassy will give advice and prepare the required customs documents for importing and exporting pets. Cats and dogs brought to Korea are subject to customs and quarantine regulations. Import and export requirements include a health and rabies certification issued and signed by a veterinarian. The rabies inoculation must be at least 1 month and less than 1 year old.

A 10-day observation period at the Quarantine Station, operated by the Republic of Korea Customs Service, is required by law. You must pay a quarantine fee, cost of care and feeding during the quarantine period, and agent's fee at customs clearance. Upon arrival in Korea all pets are transferred to the Quarantine Station by quarantine officials. You or a family member should be present at the Quarantine Station when the pet is received.

Firearms and Ammunition

U.S. personnel assigned to Korea can bring nonautomatic firearms and 1,000 rounds of ammunition to Korea. Firearms must be certified in the name of the employee and not a dependent and should be limited to sporting pistols, revolvers, and shotguns. Weapons must be registered with the security officer on arrival or after purchase in the country.

Ammunition is readily available in a variety of calibers through the PX and the Rod and Gun Club. The Rod and Gun Club also carries loading supplies.

Before you ship any weapons to Korea from the U.S., obtain a Certificate of Registration, Customs Form 4457, from the nearest U.S. Customs Office. This will facilitate your return shipment to the U.S.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

The official currency unit is the won, issued in denominations of 1,000, 5,000, and 10,000 won notes. Coins are 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 won. Circulation of U.S. currency on the local economy is common in the Itaewon shopping area, but not in other areas. Purchases and services from Korean sources should be paid in won. The rate of exchange at time of printing is approximately 880 won = U.S. $1.

American Express has a military banking branch on the Eighth Army Yongsan compound. You can establish a dollar checking account with checks payable in U.S. dollars. However, this type of checking account is not necessary if you have a checking account with a U.S. bank. Travelers checks can also be purchased at the bank when you present your travel orders or in the Embassy's Budget and Management Office.

Korea uses the metric system of weights and measures.

Skiing at Dragon Valley.

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

Cars imported into Korea by U.S. employees must be for their personal use or that of their dependents and not for resale or transfer. Under Korean Government regulations, U.S. Embassy employees or their dependents can own only one foreign-made vehicle at a time. Employees may purchase a second car as long as it is locally made, or locally assembled. No restrictions are placed on importing foreign-made vehicles.

Normally, a car imported duty free cannot be transferred or sold for 2 years from the date of clearance through customs and departure of the employee. However, exceptions may be made in unusual circumstances, e.g., if the car is destroyed or seriously damaged. Prior approval to sell must be obtained from the Administrative Counselor and you must be in the country at the time of the sale.

Personal property that you have imported into Korea or acquired through PX facilities must be for you and your family's personal use and not sold or transferred. Items purchased from PX's or commissaries cannot be used as gratuities or for payment of services rendered to persons not authorized the use of these facilities. Also, these items cannot be used in exchange for purchases made on the local market from those not entitled to PX privileges. The only exception is that an item purchased at the PX not exceeding $15 in value can be given as an occasional gift. (No commissary item regardless of cost can be given at any time.)

The Embassy's regulations concerning the disposal of personal property are based on FAMC 378,

February 1, 1966. Personal property can be sold at anytime, without prior authorization, to another person with duty-free privileges. Personal property can be sold to those without duty-free privileges no more than 120 days in advance of your permanent departure date from Korea. All applications to sell must be approved in advance by the Administrative Counselor.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

Bunge, Frederic M. *Korea: A Country Study*. GPO., 1982. Study of the dominant social, economic and national security forces at work; giving insight into the attitudes and values of the people.

Buss, S. Claude. *The United States and the Republic of Korea*. Hoover Institute, 1982. Traces the course of relations between the US and ROK, analyzing the growth in power and prestige of Korea and the effects of the everchanging policy of the American commitment.

Choe, Sang-su. *Annual Customs of Korea*. Seoman Publishing Co. 1983. A fascinating collection and description of over 160 different games and customs related to traditional Korean annual holidays.

Crane, Paul. *Korean Patterns*. 4th edition. R.A.S. 1978. Essays on Korean customs and manners by a long time Korea resident.

Ha, Tae-Hung. *Guide to Korean Culture*. Yonsei Univ. Press, 1978. An introduction to Korean culture for English speakers: history, places of interest, folk customs, tales and legends.

Henderson, Gregory. *The Politics of the Vortex*. Harvard Univ. Press, 1968. A study of Korea's political culture by a former FSO.

Henthorn, William E. *History of Korea*. Free Press, 1974. Surveys the full range of Korea's development from the prehistorical period to the end of the Yi Dynasty in 1910.

Kang, Hugh H.W. *The Traditional Culture and Society of Korea: Thought and Institutions*. Univ. of Hawaii Press, 1975. Consists of 3 papers presented to the International Conference on Traditional Korean Culture and Society held at Univ. of Hawaii in 1971.

Embassy Club lounge, South Post.

Kwak, Tae-hwan. *The Two Koreas in World Politics*. Kyungnam Univ. Press, 1983. Examines the reality of the two Koreas today and looks at how they interact with each other and with major foreign powers.

Kwak, Tae-hwan. *U.S.-Korean Relations 1882–1982*. Kyungnam Univ. Press, 1983. A collection of 29 papers presented at the 1982 annual meeting of the International Studies Association and the Association for Asian Studies and other conferences in commemoration of the 100 years of U.S.-Korean relations.

Lee, Ki Baik. Translated by E.W. Wagner. *A New History of Korea*. Harvard Univ. Press, 1984. A comprehensive overview of the developmental process of Korean history.

Rucci, Richard B. *Living in Korea*. American Chamber of Commerce, 1984. Intended for Western families to prepare for life in Korea; adjust to the local situation; find goods, services and recreation available in Korea.

Wilson Center. *Reflection on a Century of U.S.-Korean Relations: Conference Papers, June, 1982*. A collection of essays on various aspects of the past century of U.S.-Korean relations in which 10 Korean and 10 American scholars examine the historic dimensions of the bilateral relationship.

Woronoff, Jon. *Korea's Economy: Man-Made Miracle*. Si-sa-yongo-sa Publishers, Inc. 1983. The story of the rise of Korea from a backward and impoverished agricultural society to one of the most rapidly industrializing and aggressively export-oriented economies in the world.

Local Holidays

New Year Holidays	January 1, 2, 3
Lunar New Year	January or February
Sam Il Jul (Independence Movement Day)	March 1
Shik Mok Il (Arbor Day)	April 5
Hyun Choong Il (Memorial Day)	June 6
Je Hun Jul (Constitution Day)	July 17
Kwang Bok Jul (Independence Day)	August 15
Chu Sok (Korean Thanksgiving Day)	(About): October 1
Kae Chun Jul (National Foundation Day)	October 3
Hangul Nal (Korean Alphabet Day)	October 9
Christmas	December 25

A view of South Post's 18-hole golf course.